

P.W. C.A. No 1578.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

REVENUE.
Propn March

To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated February 23rd.

Printed March 3rd.

Recd. — 12th — SC — 10.
Encl. nil

G.O., 23rd February 1881, No. 355.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 352-353.

SUBJECT.
Lakshmanah's claim to Land Compensation in the
Kistna District.—Passing orders on endorsement
in the Public Works Department, transferring
for disposal original notes connected with the
settlement of —.

3. No. 646 of 14th March
1881.

Recorded.
Recorded.

L 14/3

11-1-75 2w 86
15-4- 1042
8-11- 3187
11-7-80 2148 w
25-10- 504 c8

1/11/81 Order
676w

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

23rd February 1881, No. 355.

READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER:—

No. 352. Endorsement in the Public Works Department, dated 25th October 1880, No. 584, transferring for disposal original notes connected with the settlement of Lakshmanah's claim to compensation.

No. 353. ORDER THEREON, 23rd February 1881, No. 355.

Miscellaneous.

G.O., Public Works Department, dated 11th September 1880, No. 2,148 A.W.

Honorable the Governor in Council deems it necessary to consider and determine the degree of responsibility which attaches to the Officers of the Revenue Department.

ORDERS having already been passed regarding the delays in the adjustment of the land compensation claim of Lakshmanah, so far as attributable to the Public Works Department, the Right

2. The steps taken from first to last towards the settlement of the claim are detailed below:—

- (1.) 1869.—Acres 2.78 of land (including .55 of an acre belonging to Lakshmanah) were taken up (without any application to the Revenue authorities) by some members of the Local Fund Board for a road.
- (2.) January 1873.—The first application for compensation which can be traced was made by Lakshmanah to the Collector by whom it was referred to the Assistant Collector for inquiry and report. This paper was stolen with other records of the Assistant Collector's Office.
- (3.) December 1875.—A second petition to the Collector was sent to the Tahsildar; it is stated to have been handed over by the latter in person to the Range Officer of the Public Works Department, but there is no record of this fact.
- (4.) June 1876.—A third petition to the Collector was referred to the Range Officer.
- (5.) August 1876.—The Range Officer reported the extent of land (presumably the whole 2.78 acres) and the names of owners, &c.
- (6.) September 1876.—The report was sent to the Tahsildar for valuation and estimate of compensation.
- (7.) December 1876.—The Tahsildar reported.
- (8.) January 1877.—Further report called for by the Collector. Now followed prolonged discussion and negotiation, the land-owners demanding twenty times the market value.
- (9.) December 1878.—The bill for compensation as finally settled was sent with others by the Collector to the Superintending Engineer for verification and transmission to the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
- (10.) April 1880.—The bill was returned to the Collector (not transmitted to the Examiner of Public Works Accounts).
- (11.) May 1880.—Compensation (Rs. 188) was paid by the Collector to Lakshmanah on account of his share.

3. The Revenue Department is clearly responsible for the delay which took place between August 1876, when the Range Officer reported the extent of land and the names of the owners, and December 1878, when the Collector sent up the bill for compensation to the Superintending Engineer; but owing to the irregular manner in which the land had been acquired, the settlement of compensation had become a matter of difficulty, the owners making exorbitant demands. Considering moreover that during a part of the period in question the time of the Revenue authorities was a great deal occupied by famine work, it does not appear to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that the delay on their part is altogether inexcusable.

4. It is matter for regret that under the Government Orders marginally noted, the Collector did not make the payment at once and then forward the bill for post audit instead of dealing with it in ordinary course; but the orders quoted seem to have been lost sight of alike by the Revenue and the Public Works Officers.* The Right Honorable the Governor in Council trusts that the stringent and explicit orders recently issued will have the effect of ensuring strict compliance with the prescribed rules.

Public Works Department, 11th January 1875, No. 66.

Public Works Department, 15th April 1875, No. 1,042.

Public Works Department, 8th November 1875, No. 3,187.

* Examiner of Public Works Accounts' Note, dated 25th September 1880.

(True Extract.)

G. Hunter
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department. ✓

Erd. W. J. BLewis.

65 Copies.