

Am. W. Underhill
Special

Br 84147 28. March/81

W. J. Allen
28/3

No. 3447.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS,

BUCKINGHAM CANAL,

Camp, Chelvaik 23rd March 1881.
Despd 24th do

From

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS,

BUCKINGHAM CANAL,

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

Madras.

SIR,

one Enclosure.

I have the honor to inform you that I have just returned from on tour to Pedda Ganjam for the purpose specially of examining the work done in the Emergent Clearances necessary to restore communication after the effect of the last North East Monsoon floods.

2. An abstract of the Estimates is forwarded herewith from which you will see that the work required to thoroughly restore communication at all tides amounts to Rupees 39,710. Work had of course to be commenced on emergency without estimate and funds being very short I gave instructions

instructions— as soon as narrow passages had been cut through the shoaled places so as to relief traffic—to employ petty Contractors with a view to paying them in the next official year. This has been done, Sections being taken before and after commencement of work.

3. The state of the accounts of the work is as follows,

Total amount of Estimate Rupees	39,710
Value of work actually done Rupees	29,584 *
Balance of Estimate to be carried out next year Rupees	10,126

The work done is also divided as follows,

(a) Work for which I have funds— and am paying for in 1880.81 Rupees	21,128
(b) Work for which Bills are ready but for which I shall not have funds until 1881.82 Rupees	8456

Total Rupees.—29,584 *

I have the Bills for (b) quite ready so that if at the last moment in this Official year it is found possible to give me a further allotment of funds.

funds I shall be able to expend it in liquidating them.

4. The rapidity with which the clearances were effected reflects great credit on Mr Ottmann, then in charge of the Northern Sub Division, and the Overseers under him. Mr Ottmann was fortunately in the Sub Division at the time, and, by his former acquaintance when a Division Officer in the Nellore District with the supply of labour, was enabled to collect large bodies of work people and to cut passages through the obstructions in comparatively a very short time.

5. The first stoppage occurred in the reach between the Surnamukhi and Kundelaru rivers where the rain floods running over the Sand Hills to the east washed large volumes of sand into the canal, and also in the Surnamukhi River bed which

which is always a source of expence but for the permanent improvement of which Estimates have been submitted for sanction. Mr R Enright the Overseer in charge acted very promptly and judiciously and the stoppage here was of very short duration though sand was at one time above the water level in the Canal.

6. The heaviest work by far was in the Manneru River of which I have already reported to you, and this was the most serious block to traffic that occurred. At this point there was an actual stoppage of all communication between the 3rd and 13th December 1880, ~~but~~ before the former date owing to the floods not having subsided there was water available for navigation, and after the latter date by waiting for the tide at the crossing boats got by through the passages cleared

cleared: these passages have subsequently been improved.

7. My recent inspection has been made during a very unfavourable period as regards water in the Canal — being about the Full-moon low-tides of March during which month the water level of the sea is at its lowest — and I made it so purposely, but in very few instances even at low tides did I find boats detained, and they were heavy ones and would get on as the tide rose.

8. Mr Ottmann sent me careful reports during his inspection on which I passed orders at the time, and I have put my own notes on them and brought them on to the records of the effects of Monsoons on the Canal.

9. I am convinced that until the main drainages crossing the Canal are trained by Embankments

embankments and their floods restrained by gates from entering the Canal on either side that damages must occur there at each flood; and that, in dealing with maintenance grants for future years until such improvements are made, it will be necessary to attend to the River Crossings in a 'hand-to-mouth' kind of way only, doing what is absolutely necessary to maintain the communication open and not attempting improvements. In the middles of the longer reaches not much affected by floods the Canal can be maintained in thorough efficiency and gradually cleared to the full depth, but it will be necessary to be very careful not to give way to the temptation to spend more than a half or a third of the year's grant before the occurrence of each years North-East Monsoon floods, when if they are not heavy
we

we shall be perfectly safe from damage until after the close of the Official year so that the balance of the allotment ^{after the Monsoon period has passed} ~~then~~ available can be utilized in clearing the safer reaches to their full depths.

10. In conclusion I have the honor to request if convenient that I may have any further money if available to the extent of Rs. 8456 shown in (B), so as to relieve my next year's allotments of that charge if possible.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant
A. Asaf Ali, Captain, R.E.
Superintendent of Works
Buckingham Canal.

MS.
#5.

From *Mr. C.A. 1876*

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS,

BUCKINGHAM CANAL

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

Madras

Dated *23rd March* 188/
Dec^r 24th do

No. *3447*

ENCLOSURE. *one.*

*Further allotment if
possible to the extent of
Rupees 8456—*

*Requests a — for payment
for work done in the emergent
clearances necessary to
restore communication in
the Buckingham Canal.*

5000 B.C. 1876

To note as regards
Provincial Funds
available

R.S.
24/3

Rs 4,982 are
available under
Provincial Reserve

R.S.
24/3

Sanction at
once, and inform

that any further
sum required up
to Rs 5000 will
be available

W.

No. 8418.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 28th March/81.

Read the following:—

From the Superintendent of works }
Buckingham Canal } H. C. No. 3447 d/23rd March/81.

The estimate amounting to
Rs 39,710 is sanctioned and an
appropriation of Rs 8436 for
immediate expenditure is
made from the Provincial
Reserve.

The work should be pro-
-ceeded with and any further
assignment in the current year
up to a limit of Rs 30,000 may
be relied on if timely applica-
-tion is made.

This sanction has been
registered as Provincial No. 1013
of 1880-81 and classified as
33 Irrigation & navigation
Repairs & maintenance.

L.S.

R.S.
Jof W. B.C. ✓
Ex. J. W. A. with etc

Mr. W. H. H. H. H.
Special

Br 84143 28. March/81

W. H. H. H.
28/3