GO 2991 W / 14-12-85

Vide 1171/86.

No. 2992 Wd/ Decr. 14. 1885

The Hon: H. E. Sullivan

12 DEC 85

Recorded

2. The Government agree with the Supdg Engineer in his concluding remarks regarding the Overseer and maistry.

10/12/85

10-12-85

GO. 2310 Wd/ 5. 10. 85

S.E. VI Circle.

Despd. 14. 12. 85

Cir: 10/12/85

12/12/85

Secl 1634

P. W. D. 6TH CIRCLE.

From

The Superintending Engineer,

6th Circle.

9 DEC 85

To

The Chief Engineer

P. W. D.

No. 490 MD

Dated 5 } Decr 1885
Received 9 }

Enclosure ~~10~~ 13 (1 plan)

No. 2992 Wd/ Decr. 14. 1885

Forwards Executive Engineer's report regarding the accidents at Chummamanis anicut that caused the death of 3 coolies—

With order

GO 2991 W / 14-12-85

Vide 1171/86.

No 1223.

Madura South Sub Dn office
Station Chinnamanûr anicut
9: September 1885.

To,
The Executive Engineer
Madura Division,

Sir,

I beg to report for your information that 3 of the Contractors coolies, who worked at Chinnamanûr anicut died by accident on the 3rd Instant.

2. It seems that on that day, 4 of the mamooty-men sat in a earth work pit dug on the river bank after tiffin to chew betelnut, without the knowledge of the D.P.W. Subordinate staff on the work, and that the bank slipped and fell on them; one was immediately dragged out and saved; and the 3 others suffered instantaneous death as they were covered by the fallen

mass of earth.

3. The overseer reports that immediate notice was sent to the Police and to the Sub Magistrate, and they made the necessary enquiry and found no one was to blame (except the persons that died)

I beg &c

(sd) S. Krishnamachariar
Sub Division officer.

No. 294 S.E.

True Copy forwarded to the Supg. Engineer 6th Circle with reference to the Code para 342. It is understood from para 3 of the letter, that the provisions of Code para 1532 have been complied with.

(sd) I. Grimes
Executive Engineer
15-9-85.

No. 329 M.D.

True Copy forwarded to the Chief Engineer P.W.D. for information. The Executive Engineer has been directed to make a full enquiry into the unfortunate circumstances that has resulted in the death of 3 men.

Col. R.E.
Supg. Engineer 6 Circle

Kodaikanal }
21st September/85 }

D8/1824

Mr Am. A.S. Sullivan

No. 2310 W a/s 5th Oct/85

B

2 OCT

Recorded.

2. The result of the inquiry will be awaited.

A.T.

Sep. 28. 1885

30-9-85

S.E. VI Circle

Desp'd 6/10/85

Da 18/10

P.W.S. 1449. Cir 1/10th

C. 29.9.85

P.W.C. No. 84

From (5)

The Supt. Engineer

To

The Chief Engineer P.W.D.

Dated 21
Despd 24
Recd 26 } September/85

Enclo- nil

No. 2310 W a/s 5th Oct/85

No. 329 M.D

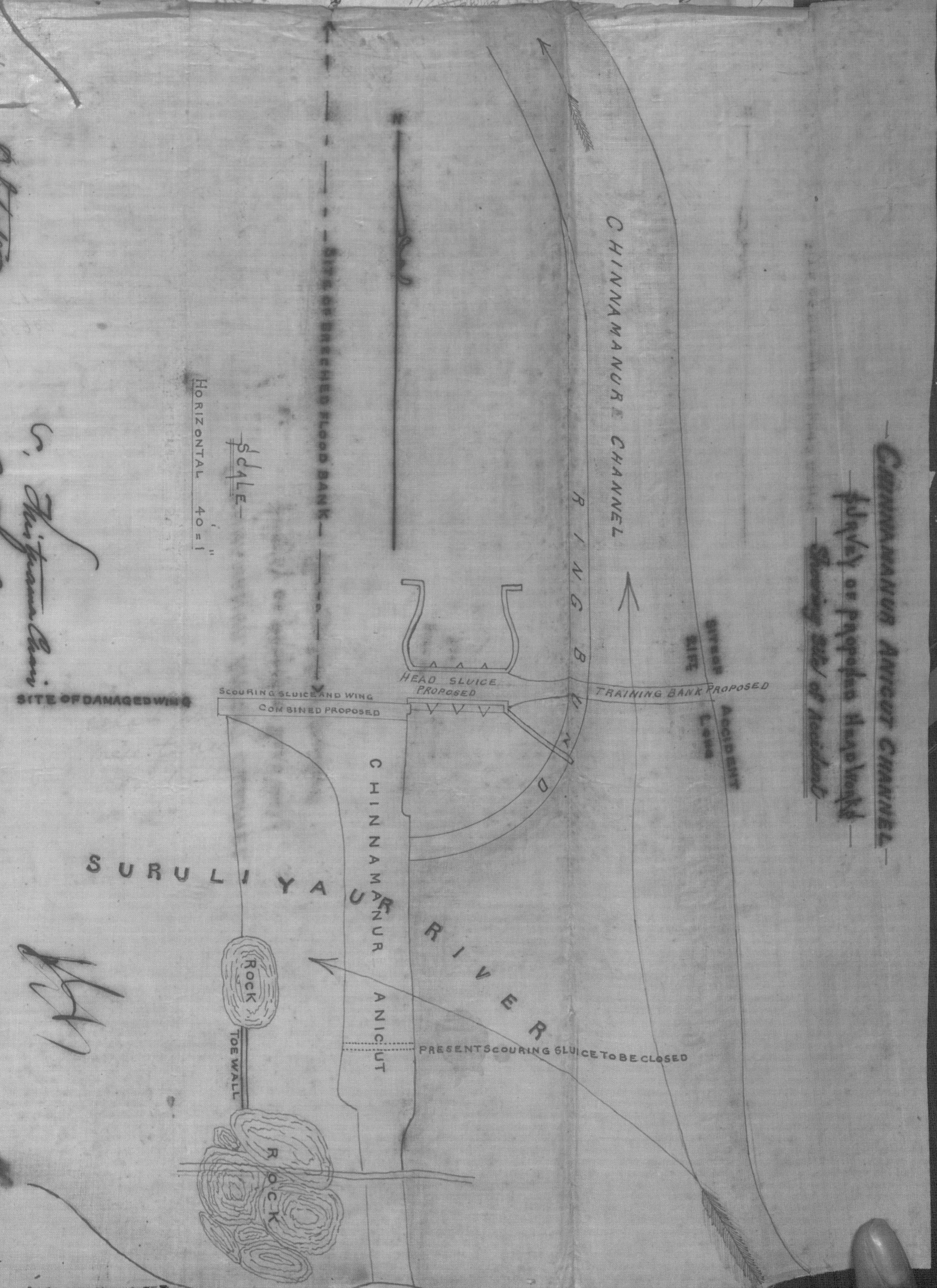
Accident

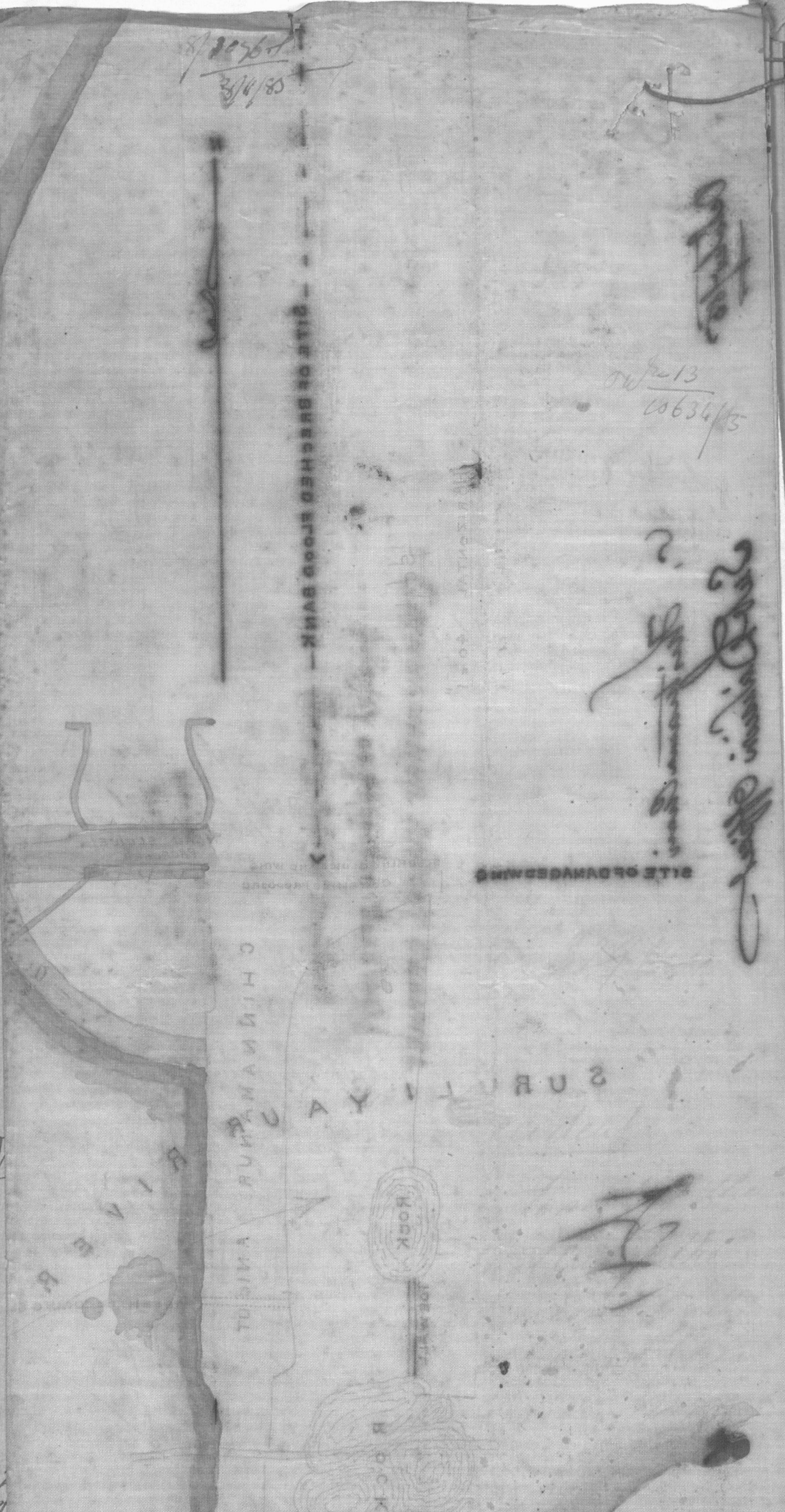
Brings to notice the — that caused the instantaneous death of 3 coolies at Chinnamanur Anicut

With Orders

Octr/85

C. Thirugnana Chari
Sub Divisional Officer





Executive Engineer's Office

4 DEC 85

~~From~~

Renga Row.
Superintendent (Maistry)

~~Submits~~ the following reply with reference to Sub Division Office No. $\frac{1364}{29.9.85}$.

1. What the depth of Earthwork pit was?	No pit was dug: the Eastern berm of the river bank was cut down 2½ yards deep and 1 yard broad.
2. What is the nature of the Soil?	Clay and red Kunker Combined underneath ½ yard depth of Silt Covered over with Gravel.
3. If the Soil was bad what precautions were taken that accidents may not occur.	Vide above. further: as the breach was closed with (Good) Cocoanut trees people were warned by tom tom generally that none should approach within 20 yards of work spots and 2 Kunganies and 1 watchman were on the look out Constantly.

[illegible]

work thereat) and costs ~~not~~ being obtained from

8/3561

[illegible]
matued Can, the fact of precautions having been taken, be proved.

Rde [illegible] thone:
The ~~above~~ said kungamoi and watchman [illegible] received their [illegible] still receive pay (from the company) the Cooly who beat the tom tom, the account relating to those many ordinary people can bear witness.

(Signed) Renga Row
Superintendent.
8. 10. 85.

No 12
10634/85

V. H. 14
C. 29. 9.

South Sub Division Office

12/901 [illegible] 1561
12-10-85

[illegible]

[illegible] 13 6 4/8 [illegible]

[illegible] 2 1/2 [illegible]

2 [illegible]

[illegible] 1/2 [illegible]

3 [illegible]

[illegible] 20 [illegible]

work thereat) and [illegible] being obtained from

[illegible]

2

[illegible]

17 / 12634/85

3ம் [illegible]

[illegible]

P.W. 14

6.29.9.

South Sub Division Office

No. 1580.

Allinagaram

29th October 1885.

4 DEC 85

From.

The South Sub Division Officer
Allinagaram

To

The Executive Engineer
Madura Division

Encls: 10.

Sir

Reference. Your Nos $\frac{1086\ S}{26.9.85}$ & $\frac{1169\ S}{12.10.85}$.

I beg to forward herewith Copy of Inquest Report received from the Chinnamanoor Deputy Tahsildar regarding the accident in question together with the reports received from the Maistry (Superintendent) and Contractor and the depositions taken by you on the 28th.

2. The Superintendent (Maistry) who is a man of about 35 years experience and a careful man was on the work spot on the date of occurrence.

3. Ring Bund was formed for breach at R. flood bank of ~~the~~ the Chinnamanoor Anicut (and for Head Sluice work thereat) and earth ~~not~~ being obtained from

a reasonably short distance, the Superintendent and the overseer seem to have, on emergency, ordered the padugai each (on the R. side) of the river to be cut down with a slight slope. The breadth of excavation was not much, to avoid encroachment on private land; when the ring bund work was approaching completion, a slight fresh seems to have come down the river and wetted the bottom portion of the cutting-down of the padugai. Thereafter, the Coolies (who worked on piece work) have apparently taken care that the bottom breadth of the cutting is made equal to the top breadth for fear of losing money (and it is generally the nature of the Coolies to do so.) This act of the Coolies was perhaps unnoticed by the Superintendent and the overseer was not on the work for 1 or 2 days previous to that.

At this stage, the accident seems to have happened.

4. I also beg to add that the length of cutting which slipped is likely to have been the site of an old well ~~or so~~ as the adjacent lengths were afterwards cut down only with crowbars.

5. I further beg to state that the date of occurrence is the 2nd and office entry in the Superintendent's report 185. as 3rd is incorrect.

6. The Superintendent and the Contractor plead, you will see, that they have not been careless as otherwise the heirs of the deceased would have raised a loud clamour as also the villagers and others.

7. And, though the accident is greatly to be regretted, I beg to state that the opinion of the villagers is that it is merely an extraordinary mishap.

I beg to remain
Sir
Your most obedient Servant.
S. Muthurama Cunni
Sub Division Officer

6634/85

3

2/901 M.D/85

B

Deposition of Rengasawmy Superintendent (Maistry)

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
4 DEC 85
CIRCLE

Executive Engineer's Questions	Reply
1 [illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

28-10-85

[illegible]

3/92 MD/85

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
DEC 85

Deposition of Renga Row (Maistry -) Superintendent

Exec. Engineer Questions	Reply
Why was the excavation at site of accident [illegible] in bench with not sloping	I did not order the coolies to have it perpendicular. I had told them to have a slight slope. They seem to have cut it perpendicular without my knowledge
What is the cause of the earth slipping when the soil in the adjacent parts has been cut with crowbars	This was probably the site of an old well. villagers generally bale out water to paddy from the river the place being all covered with bushes & [illegible] the site was not carefully seen in the first instance

1/10365
8/9

6

What is the
date of
occurrence
after accident

If it is the
2nd Sept.
this date
put down
in my report
should be
corrected

o/w Eng
10634/85

(Sd) [illegible]

5/OV MD/85

901 MD/85

SUPERINTENDING ENG

6/10/1098 S.
7/11/88

Occurrance Report of the Station
Officer Chinnamanore to the
Local 2nd Class Magistrate on 3rd
September 1885.

Crime Register No. $\frac{1}{170}$ Accidental
death.

Date of Occurrance 2. 9. 85.

I, Head Constable, on my
return yesterday evening from Combai
via Uthamapoliem, ~~I~~ heard that the
river berm (Padugai) at which Earth
was dug for Chinnamanore annicut
slipped and that the fallen mass
of Earth fell on 4 male Coolies &
that 3 of them died and one was living
I went there at once and saw the
dead bodies removed to top of
berm. They were.

Sadayan Pullah caste age about 40
Magan do age 30
Arumugam do 20

Their neck and adjacent parts
had received the blow of the fallen
mass of Earth and blood was coming
through their mouths, noses and Ears.
On enquiring Nagar Kudumban who

who had been got out alive he said that 29 Coolies including himself had dug earth and that he and the 3 dead were sitting, chewing betel nut in the bed of the vertical excavation and the padugai slipped and fell on them four: that as his face was seen out he was dragged out and saved in time, such that the 3 others being covered under the fallen masses of Earth died. He says that he feels pain on the hip.

I sent him to the Hospital and made necessary enquiries from his fellow workmen Karuppa Kudumban Veerana kudumban and others and the marginally noted inhabitants, and Renga Row Superintendent, Ananthanarayana Iyr Contractor's representative, who both superintend the work and they all gave Mahazar as above that the 3 died by the slipping of the Earth from the vertical edge of the padugai.

The portion that cracked & slipped is 7 yards x 1 yard x 3 yards and is about 50 to 60 bandy load.

5/904 MD/85

I think the deaths occurred owing to the fallen Earth.

I beg to report that the dead bodies have been handed over to the nearest relatives and enclosed is the Mahazar.

I also enclose herein the memo obtained from Veera Kudumban, Ramayee and Kaluva Kudumban the nearest relations and the Village Munsiff of Uthamapolium.

(Signed) Aroomoogum Pillay
No. 226 Constable.

(True Copy)

(Signed). S. Kristna Row
2nd Class Magistrate

(A true translation as near as can be)

Sd S Kristnama Charry
R.O.D. Sh.

O.W. Gen. 8 / 10634/85

5/901 MD/85

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
4 DEC 85

1

1885 [illegible]

[illegible] 4/17 [illegible]

[illegible] 2. 9. 85 [illegible]

[illegible]

Correct (Interlineation)
Compared
[illegible] 4 Dec 85

[illegible] 29 [illegible]

[illegible] 3 [illegible]

Interlineation 1

No 2nd 7
10634/85

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER [illegible] CIRCLE
4 DEC 85

D

6/10
8/11

From
Pheruappen Contractor.

Reference Sub Division Office memo No 1476/14.10.85 Calling for ~~report~~ on the following points.

(1) What precautions were taken for people not going near the excavation pits knowing that ~~the~~ was not slopped off.

(2) If the soil was ~~not~~ hard why ~~the~~ excavation was perpendicular.

(3) What would have been the cause of ~~the~~ accident if the soil was hard and if the ~~soil~~ slipping could not have been expected.

═

1. The Coolies who dug the earth were piece-work Coolies and not Coolies on ~~weekly~~ daily wages.

2. It was not known ~~that the~~ excavation was perpendicular ~~nor was there want of~~ precaution.

3. The soil was hard being earth and kunker combined.

4. On ~~that~~ day the work was in progress

Or/E6
10634/85

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
4 DEC 85
6th CIRCLE

7/901 MD/85

[illegible]

2/10968

[illegible]

3. [illegible]

4. [illegible] 200 [illegible] 4. [illegible] 8. 9. [illegible] 4. [illegible] 3. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

22.10.85

[illegible]

28-10-85

2/1096S
3/2/85

8/90/MD/85

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
4 DEC 85

Depositions of Overseer J. A. Massillamoney Pillai

Executive Engineer's questions	Reply
1. what the depth [illegible]	About 5.0 ft left when I inspected on 3rd September and on the date of the inspection previous to that viz the 31st August the excavation was not dangerously deep nor were any instructions given to make it dangerous.
2. what is the nature of the soil.	Clay and red Kunker
3. If the soil was bad what prefcautions were taken that accidents may not accur.	As above, soil was not bad and the soil in the adjacent parts is even now seen to be hard.
4. Can you state the reason for the accident proximate or more remote.	There was a fresh in the river some time before the accident and the earth

might have fallen being wet by the fresh

Dis 4
10636/85

2. work people might have cut it perpendicularly to increase the number of cubic yards

The accident occured on the 2nd September 85. owing to a slip it has been stated by me as 3rd September which is now corrected.

J.A. Arasillamoney
Overseer.

27.10.85

9/901 M.D./85

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
4

Madras. Police – Madura. District –
G. Division – Chinnamanur Station –
Inquest report held at Kalimatkupatti Village
on the 2nd September 1885.

Questions	Replies –
(1) Name of the deceased – their fathers name, residence, Male or female, age, caste and professions	(1) Sadayan – 40 years of age – (2) Mayan – 30 years of age – (3) Arumugam – 20 years of age – Palla caste – Cooly profession Male. Ettanapoban –
(2). Height of dead bodies and other marks of personal identifications	(1) Sadayan – 5 ft 4 inches. (2) Mayan – 5 ft 5 inches (3) Arumugam – 5 ft 3 inches – Color – Rather dark red –
(3). When and by whom, dead bodies were first seen	Renga Row.
(4). When, where, by and with whom dead bodies were last seen, when alive	By Karuppa Kudumban – on Chinnamanur ancut –
(5). By whom and when reported first to the Police	Renga Row.
(6) Name and rank of the Police Officer who first saw dead bodies and when –	Arumugam Pillay. No. 226. Head Constable – On the 2nd September 1885. about 4-20. P.M.

15-12

Allifagaram - 1st December/85

(7) By which relatives and under what marks of identifications, dead bodies were taken as their	Nil
(8) Conditions of dead bodies, wounds and other similar hurts received	Blood gushed out of their mouths, ears, and eyes and bodies crushed
(9). What kind of clothes jewels &c were on dead bodies	Old ragged clothes
(10) State of localities where dead bodies lay. If water, the depth - if well its condition &c	Odai where earth was deposit.
(11). Causes for the death	fall of forty or fifty bandy loads of earth mass on them.
(12) With what kind of instrument death might have befallen, if not accidental	Nil
(13). If there be any suspicion on whom - and what	Nil.
(14). If dead bodies had been sent to a doctor, for examination, why and under what authority	Nil
(15). Name and rank of the officer constable sent along with dead bodies	Nil
(16). ~~By~~ Under whose order dead bodies were interred	Village Munsiff Station Officer Arumugam Pillay.
(17). Opinion of the Panchayat about the cause of death	Accidental fall of mass of earth over men in question who died in consequence

(Signed) M. Chockalingam Pillay.

" Arumugam Pillay

No 226. Station Officer

&c.

4 DEC 85
ENGINEER
6

907/mw/85

மதராஸ்போலீசு

மதுரைஜில்லா

INQUEST REPORT.

[illegible] டிவிஷன் [illegible] ஸ்டேஷ

188 ௫ ஆ [illegible] மீ உ தேதியில் [illegible]

இறந்து கிடந்த பிரேதத்தைப்பற்றி செய்த விசாரணையின் ரிப்போர்ட்டு

கேள்விகள்	ஜவாபு
1 இறந்து போனவனுடைய பெயரும் தகப்பனா பெயரும் இருப்பிடமும் பிரேதம் ஆணா பெண்ணென்பதும் வயசும் ஜாதியும் தொழிலும்.	[illegible]
2 பிரேதத்தின் உயரமும் நிறமும் மற்ற அங்க அடையாள குறிப்புகளும்.	[illegible]
3. பிரேதத்தை முதலில் யார் எப்போது கண்டது?	[illegible]
4. பிரேதம் உயிரோடிருக்கும் பொழுது கடைசியில் யாரால் எப்பொழுது எவ்விடத்தில் யாருடன் கூடப் பார்த்தது	[illegible]
5. போலீசுசாருக்கு முதலில் யார் எப்பொழுது ரிப்போர்ட்டு செய்தது.	[illegible]
6. பிரேதத்தை முதலில் பார்த்த போலீசு உத்தியோகஸ்தனுடைய பெயரும், ராங்கும் பார்த்த காலமும்.	[illegible] 22 [illegible] 2/9/85 [illegible]
7. எந்த சந்தர்ப்பங்களாலும் என்ன குறிப்புகளாலும் பிரேதம் தங்கள் வகையருக்களைச் சேர்ந்ததென்று தெரிந்து கொள்ளப்பட்டது.	[illegible]
8 பிரேதமிருக்கப்பட்ட விதியும் காயம் கோரைகளிருந்தால் அவைகளின் விபரமும்.	[illegible]
9. பிரேதத்தி என்ன அணிந்தகைமுதலான சாமா	[illegible]

Executive Engineer's Office
Allinagaram - 1st December/85.
~~Madura. 28th November/85~~

No 420 S.E.

From
The Executive Engineer
Madura Division

To
The Superintending Engineer
6th Circle
Trichinopoly

Sir,

Encl: 9. to be obligingly returned when done with.

With reference to your letter No 330 M.D of 21st September last. I have the honour to report in detail the circumstances which led to the Accident therein alluded to, after personal enquiry and perusal of necessary records obtained from the 2nd Class Magist-

-strate of Chinnamanore in Connection with the Case.

2. On the afternoon of the 2nd September 1885 at about 4 P.M. the accident happened (and not on the 3rd as originally reported by the Superintendent) and which is corroborated by the Occurrence Report of the Police Station House Officer of Chinnamanore dated 3rd September 1885 Copy of which is enclosed for perusal.

3. The work is being done on Contract by one Thenappier, an interested Meerasdar of the village, whose Agent Ananthanaramier. was on the spot superintending the Coolies on behalf of the Contractor. The Maistry or Superintendent, who was employed to look after the work on behalf of Government is one Renga Row a man of about 35 years' experience as a Maistry and Overseer in the execution of Public Works. The Overseer in Charge is Mavilamony Pillai a Temporary Subordinate lately transferred from Ramnad Division.

4. On the day of the accident it is understood that the work of excavation was in progress for a length of about 200 yards, and the number of Coolies employed was about 100. working in 3 or 4 Sections. The portion of the bank that cracked and fell over the unfortunate Coolies in question, is a length of about 8 or 9 yards

the depth of the excavation being about 5 or 6 feet which the overseer has observed on the 3rd September, that is, subsequent to the happening of the accident. But prior to the occurrence of the sad event, the overseer's last inspection date was the 31st August, that is 2 days before the occurrence, when it is said the excavation was not in any way dangerously deep and he had apparently taken no notice of it in consequence.

5. Out of the 4 coolies who were sitting within the excavation 3 died, having been entirely covered by the heavy clods of earth, but fortunately one whose head was seen above the fallen mass of earth, was dragged out by his fellow workman and saved. The maistry who was on the work spot on the said date instantly reported the matter to the Police Station at Chinnamanore the Officer in charge of which thereupon inspected the locality and the dead bodies, on the same day, at about half past four P.M., held an Inquest in the usual manner, along with 14 others who were taken in by him, as members of Punchayet, and they arrived at the conclusion that the death happened purely by accident. Copy of the finding of the Inquest

it herewith put up for perusal, accompanied by a site plan of the ground where the accident happened.

6. As to the real or probable Cause of the accident &c I have the honor to report that, though the depth of the excavation may not have been so dangerously deep as to be capable of causing loss of human lives considering the nature of the soil,× still the Cutting appears to have been made by the Coolies perpendicularly, ~~or hollowly tending inwards~~ instead of in a slight slope as ordered. This foolish act of the Coolies done apparently with intent

× which is Red clay & Kunker.

to secure the maximum cubical contents of the excavation (in as much as they were engaged on task work, and not on daily labour) it appears to have been unnoticed by the Maistry or the Contractor's representative who were superintending the work. But the depth of the excavation, and the peculiar way in which the same was dug cannot be the entire cause of the accident, for it is not likely that a piece of ground with soil of such a nature will slip into a pit, to such an enormous quantity of 50 or 60 bandy loads as has been in this case, simply by reason of the Cutting being perpendicular and the depth about 5 or 6 feet, but from Enquiry &c I understand that the above foolish act of the Coolies, coupled with 2 other acts of Providence viz; moisture caused to the bottom portion of the Cutting by the slight fresh that came down the river, a few days before the Accident happened and the particular place being probably the site of an old well generally used by the ryots for irrigating their high lands must have been the cause of the Accident.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

J Ginns,
Executive Engineer
Madura Division.

Compd. m

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
4 DEC 85
6th CIRCLE

From

$\frac{\text{G}^{\text{l}}}{10636}$ 85

The Executive Engr
Madura Division

To

The Superintending Engr
6 Circle
Trichinopoly

Dated 1st } December/85
Despd 3rd }

No 420 SE
Enclo: 9.

Reports regarding the accidents that caused the instantaneous death of 3 Coolies at Chinnamanur anicut.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
6TH CIRCLE.

Needamangalam 5th Dec 1885.

No. 490 MD

From
The Superintending Engineer,
6th Circle.

To
The Chief Engineer
P. W. D.

ENCLOSURE. 10

Exec: Engr's
No $\frac{420 \text{ S.E}}{1-12-85}$
with 9 enclosures.

Sir,

With reference to G.O No 2310 dated 5th Oct/85, I have the honor to forward the Executive Engineer of Madura report No 420 S.E dated 1st December and enclosures in original, regarding the accident at Chinnamanur Anicut that caused the death of 3 coolies.

It appears that the ringbund of the breach that occurred last year was being strengthened and earth for it was being excavated from the side of the channel. The work was done on contract, the contractor employing coolies who were paid according to the work they did. The work was in charge of a temporary maistry working under the orders of overseer

overseer Masillamany Pillay who visited the work from time to time.

The side of the channel was red clay mixed with Kunkur, and it appears it was scarped to a height of about 2½ yds. A mass of earth about 7 yds long 1 in breadth and 2½ yds deep suddenly fell on 4 coolies killing 3 of them. The original report and other papers show that the accident was considered purely accidental; and in this opinion I agree although it was, of course, wrong and rash to cut a bank about 2½ yds in height as done perpendicularly. I consider the maistry, a man of experience, should have seen that this was not done by the contractor without remonstrance and the overseer, who saw the work 3 days before, ought to have marked off where the earth was to be excavated and given orders with regard to slopes &c. He is a young inexperienced man who holds a temporary appointment. The warning these men have had will, I trust, be sufficient to make them more careful in future. !!

I

I have the honour to be,
Sir
Your most obt Servt.
Col RE
Supdtg Engineer 6 Cir.

No. 2992 Wd/ Decr. 14. 1885

~~The Hon: H. Sullivan~~

B

12 DEC 85

Recorded

2. The Government agree with the Supdg Engineer in his concluding remarks regarding the Overseer and maistry.

10/12/85

10·12·85

G.O. 2310 Wd/ 5. 10. 85

S.E. VI Circle.

Despd. 14. 12. 85.

Cir: 10/12/85

12/12/85

Secy 10634

P. W. D. 6TH CIRCLE.

9 DEC 85

From

The Superintending Engineer,

6th Circle.

To

The Chief Engineer P. W. D.

No. 490 M.D.

Dated 5.
Received 9 } Decr 1885

Enclosure ~~10~~ 13 + (1 Plan)

No. 2992 Wd/ Decr. 14. 1885

Forwards Executive Engineer's report regarding the accidents at Chinnamanur anicut that caused the death of 3 coolies —

With order