

Public Works (1897) Department.

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No. 274 I., 17TH MARCH 1897.

10. Of course, the scheme could not be carried out, however promising, unless the Hyderabad Government is a consenting party, because a strip of Hyderabad territory probably not exceeding two square miles, with one small village, would be submerged. In British territory also only one small village would be submerged and no land of any value.

11. I therefore beg, if you approve of the further action I propose, that you will be good enough to address the Government of His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, with a request that they will permit us to make the necessary survey and contours of their territory, the position of which is shown approximately in yellow on the accompanying atlas sheet. I should also want permission to dig trial pits on the proposed line of bund.

No. 55 I.

Submitted to Government.

2. For the reasons given by the Superintending Engineer, the undersigned agrees with him that it is not worth while to proceed further with the investigation of the proposed Sugur project.

3. There is, however, more promise of success in the other scheme brought to notice in paragraph 8 of the Superintending Engineer's letter of the 22nd February last. It is recommended that authority be given to proceed with the investigation of this project, and His Highness the Nizam's Government be moved for permission to carry on the investigation of that part of it which lies in Hyderabad territory.

(Signed) W. HUGHES,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

9th March 1897.

ORDER—No. 274 I., dated 17th March 1897.

The recommendations of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation are approved and the following letter will be forwarded to the Resident at Hyderabad.

[Here enter No. 275 I., dated 17th March 1897.]

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUGHES,
Joint Secy. to Government,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Superintending Engineer, III Circle.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation, with copy of letter to the Resident.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

G.O., No. 683

DATED

24 July 1897

[Enclosed Abstract.]

Lamine Relief Estimates, Lamine Tools etc.
Dro. Revenue Dept. according with remarks
the joint report of the Chief Eng. & Secretary to
Govt. P.W.D. and the member of the Board
of Revenue on — in the North Arcot Dist.
Com. to the officers concerned of the S.E.
IV Circle directed to expedite the submission
of his report on the Morthana Reservoir project.

P.W. 25.
[5,000—11—50.]

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There is no record of export and import by road, and it is difficult to draw any conclusions from the rail-borne figures in the absence of similar statistics for normal years.

6. Notwithstanding the high prices, the Collector believes that the only large tract in the District which need cause immediate anxiety, in case of a failure of the South-West Monsoon, is the North-West corner, comprising the Punganur Zemin, the Pālayams of Kallur and Pulicharla and the Pākala Firka of the Chendragiri taluk. This is, roughly speaking, the tract in which relief works were opened in 1892. Both monsoons last year, in this tract, were bad, Punganur, in particular, depends for its rāgi crop (which is the staple) on the South-West Monsoon. Should the South-West Monsoon fail, the Collector believes that the agricultural labouring classes will find no work and will require relief.

7. The population of the Punganur Zemin is 92,000, and of the two Pālayams 17,000. Including the Pākala Firka, the population of the tract is perhaps about $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs.

The labouring classes of these parts hate road-work, and will not, in ordinary seasons, engage in it. The contractors for the repair of Local Fund roads habitually import their labour from the Government taluks to the South.

When relief works were opened in 1892, the price of rāgi averaged 17·5 seers, the present price being over 20 seers. In 1891, Punganur had had a rainfall of only 14·53 inches, whereas last year it was over 18 inches.

Present prospects are thus not as bad as in 1892, and an approximate idea of the numbers likely to join as relief workers may be got from the fact that in 1892 the maximum daily average of relief workers in the worst month was under 1,800.

Should the dreaded failure of the South-West Monsoon occur, the necessary relief can be afforded to the tract in question without any great strain.

8. The Collector believes, and so far as we can judge, he is right, that no other large portion of the District is likely to require the opening of relief works supposing that the ensuing North-East Monsoon is normal.

9. *Famine Programme.*—The Famine Programme provides for works to the amount of Rs. 36,15,485 which is sufficient to give employment to about 23 per cent. of the population of 2,200,000 persons for 3 months.

10. The estimates may be divided as follows:—

Sanctioned	...	...	...	Rs. 11,46,556
Ready	...	...	...	" 4,87,709
Proposed but not ready	...	...	...	" 19,81,220

With the exceptions noted below in the margin, all the sanctioned estimates were laid before us and we are satisfied that they are available for immediate execution, should necessity arise.

They comprise—

Local Fund roads	...	...	...	Rs. 7,83,425
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(a) These were in the Municipal Office and not available for inspection.

(a) Municipal works	...	...	...	" 86,777
Minor Local Fund works such as deepening drinking water ponds, forming village roads, clearing village sites, &c.	...	...	...	" 2,68,724

(b) In the Sub-Division Office and could not be produced.

(b) Irrigation works under the D. P. W.	...	...	...	" 7,630
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Total 11,46,556

This is sufficient to give employment to 152,874 persons, or 6·9 per cent of the population for 3 months. This, we believe, is ample to provide for all contingencies that may arise before next November.

11. In the parts most likely to be affected by a failure of the South-West Monsoon, viz., Punganur and a part of Chendragiri, the amount of the estimates sanctioned and actually ready for execution is Rs. 2,53,201, and the population of the tract being about 125,000, this will afford employment for 23 per cent. of the population for 3 months or for 14 per cent. for 6 months, which we believe to be ample. As regards the estimates shown as ready and amounting to Rs. 487,709, many of them were laid before us, but others were not available for inspection. These only require to be submitted to the proper sanctioning authority and the Collector has promised that this shall be done as soon as possible. The balance of the estimates entered in the programme and amounting to Rs. 19,81,220, only includes proposed works and need not be considered till the result of the South-West Monsoon is seen, as it would evidently be a waste of time and money to prepare great numbers of estimates that are not likely to be required. There are no big works, costing over one lakh of rupees, on which a large amount of labour could be concentrated, except the Morthana Reservoir Project in the Gudiyatam taluk (estimate Rs. 3,00,000). This work has been under investigation for some time, but nothing definite has been settled, and the detailed estimate will take some months to prepare. Perhaps the Chief Engineer for Irrigation might be asked to give his opinion regarding the Project.

12. Should the North-East Monsoon fail and the distress become very severe, there are the following two works on which we think large bodies of coolies might be massed with advantage:—

1. Clearing silt from Kaveripak tank bed,
 2. Clearing the Kaveripak tank supply channel,
- the estimates for both of these works could be prepared in a week and they would afford very suitable employment for famine labour.

The Kaveripak tank has silted up about 11 feet in the worst part, and its capacity is thereby much reduced, the discharge in the supply channel is also greatly diminished by the deposit of sand to a depth of 4 or 5 feet, so that both works would be useful: the cost would probably be about two lakhs of rupees and the Executive Engineer has been ordered to prepare an estimate.

13. *Tools.*—On our arrival at Chittoor, we discovered that all the famine tools belonging to the North Arcot District are stored at Vellore, and as the Executive Engineer has been personally engaged in counting them for some days past and will shortly complete the work, we did not think it desirable to prolong our tour by paying a visit to Vellore specially for the purpose of examining these tools.

Axes, felling	...	69
Axes, pick	...	40,578
Buckets	...	8
Chains, "iron" galvanised	...	10
Crowbars	...	23,406
Forks	...	93
Sledge hammers	...	193
Stone breaking hammers	...	4,921
Bill hooks	...	640
Thorn sickles	...	1,172
Iron water carts	...	3
Jumpers	...	720
Mamooties	...	33,269
Iron Rammers	...	973
Country picks	...	233
Shovels	...	99

N.B.—Tools shown as at Arni in the statement have since been removed to Vellore.

There seems no reason to doubt that, as was the case in the Coimbatore and Salem Districts, the number of tools will be found to agree with that shown in the margin entered in the statement showing actual distribution of Famine tools as compared with the reserve, prescribed in G.O. No. 3116 W, dated 2nd December 1893. We recommend that the same number and description of tools be provided for this District as we stated to be necessary in the case of Salem.

It will be seen from the statement above referred to, that the number of some description of tools is much in excess of what we consider necessary and the excess can be transferred to make up deficiencies in other Districts. The number of stone breaking hammers is seriously deficient as is the case in the other Districts we have visited.

14. In North Arcot, as elsewhere, the prime difficulty to be met in case the existing drought and famine in the Deccan should continue and spread, will be the provision of the necessary extra establishments.

Of the District Revenue Staff, 24 persons have been already transferred for famine duty in the affected Districts, along with 6 of the 12 officers and subordinates forming the normal strength of the D.P.W. establishment. The Collector informs us that he has been, by advertising and enquiry, unable to obtain any one qualified to fill the post of Overseer of Minor Irrigation works, and we apprehend that should it become necessary to engage overseers in large numbers, there will be no alternative but to employ unpassed, and more or less unqualified, men.

Government is already fully alive to this difficulty, and we regret that we have at present no useful suggestions to make for meeting it. When we shall have visited the eight Districts which we have been directed to report upon, we propose to submit to Government a brief general report in which we will attempt to combine and correct the hurried observations which we are submitting on each District.

ORDER—No. 488, DATED 25TH JUNE 1897.

Recorded.

2. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be requested to favour Government with his opinion regarding the Morthana Reservoir Project now under investigation.

3. The Executive Engineer, N. Arcot, who counted the famine tools stored at Vellore will be requested in the P. W. D. to report whether they are all in a serviceable condition or require repairs before they can be made ready for use.

(True Extract.)

G. H. S.

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Settlement).
„ Public Works Department (W. & I.).

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