

Public Works (1897) Department.

2nd book

G.O., No. 1048 W

DATED 14 April 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Examine Relief Works. Pro: Revenue Dept
Sanctioning ^{with remarks} the Board's proposal to place
all - in Vizalapatam ^{of} under the P.W.D.
Comd to S.E. India.*

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

Public Works ^{urgent} (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3746

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Order № 1048 W of 14.4.97

Communicated
to the Suptg. Engineer I
Circle.

From

The Revenue Department.

No. 244, Pres.

S. G. I. C. 120 ✓

R. S.

Dated 9th April 1897.

Received 13.4.97

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Relief works

Sanctioning the proposal to
place all famine ——— in
Vozagapatam under the P.W. D
and stating that orders will issue
in that Dept. for taking over the
two works already opened and for
starting such new work, as may
be proposed by the Collector.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

[illegible]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture) dated 29th March 1897, No. 2352 Mis, on the following letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 20th March 1897, Re C. No. 840 :-

I have the honour to report that the two test works opened at Gazuvaka and Dakamarri in Vizagapatam and Bimlipatam taluks respectively have filled in a remarkable manner, and that they establish beyond doubt the existence of distress sufficient to call for an extension of works. I shall report on Monday in detail on these tests with ~~figs~~ figures of numbers working &c, but my present information is that there are about 1100 coolies at Dakamarri and 500 at Guzuvaka and the numbers will without doubt increase. I spent Monday and Tuesday at Dakamarri and Thursday morning and Friday after-noon at Guzuvaka. My object in addressing the Board now, before I submit my detailed report, is to represent that if such extension of work as I believe to be necessary is to take place in ~~proper~~ proper time no time should be lost in addressing the Government to put the works in this District under the Public Works Department.

2. The agency at my disposal is only that of the District Board. Local Fund Overseers, in a backward district like this are not equal to managing a work of any size in a satisfactory manner far less to starting it. They require the presence of a superior officer without whom it is hopeless to expect from them the necessary discrimination as to tasking organization and if necessary fining for short works and in whose absence order and discipline are difficult to maintain. Fining I have up to date forbidden without sanction of superior authority, nor have I found it necessary, as the workers really work very very well and the oldest and feeblest show a most praiseworthy preference for work over gratuitous relief. I will report details

details of tasks &c done. The Local Fund Engineer is superintending Gazu-
-vaka and the Supervisor Dakamarri. Both officers are working in
a praiseworthy manner. The Deputy Tahsildars are doing paymasters'
work and endeavouring to train paymasters and kitchen superintendents.
Head coolies at 4 annas a day are hardly to be got. They find the work
too much and ~~disappear~~ disappear. Under these circumstances I do not
feel able to send the Engineer and the supervisor to open other
works. I have requested Mr. Scott to depute the supervisor as
soon as possible to open another work in his division, but with
over 1000 workers on the work already started he cannot really
be spared.

I am going to open another work at Pendur to serve villages
out of reach at Gazuvaka, on Wednesday and have entrusted the
work to Mr. Heaney, Assistant Collector, who I am confident will
do his best, though he will only have the assistance of an over-
seer, but Mr. Arbuthnot will be able to visit this work and super-
-intend it as well as Gazuvaka to a certain extent. I think further
works will be needed, and really things develop so rapidly that it
is necessary not to waste time.

3 Under present arrangements I must point out that the Local
Fund Engineer and his supervisor are unable to attend to this
ordinary work at all and the inspection necessary before the end of
the year is at a standstill, while the accounts for the year have
to be sent in by the 15th April.

The Public Works Department subordinate staff is far superior
to that of the Local Funds and a Public Works Department officer
deputed for this work would have nothing else to attend to.

4. I do not mean to be alarmist or to convey the idea that im-
mediate extension of work is urgently called for to save life, but
I am bound to conclude from the facts under my observation that it
is called for if the people are not to be allowed to fall into -
noticeable distress before work is provided for them. I fully ex-
pect the Pendur work to fill, and I think that by the end of next
week there will be 3000 people on Test works. They seem to have
lost, on trial their fear of them. No one came to Dakamarri for
5 days, in spite of any amount of publication and explanation,
but when a few came they began to pour in.

This shows that until work is actually opened it is impossible
to

Their
to say whether people will come or not. ~~These~~ statements on
the subject are not to be relied on one way or the other.
5. I will submit my report on the Tests as promised but I
beg that the Board will move the Government to take up the
step I have indicated and ~~in~~ to depute the necessary staff.
I have ample works available, my trouble is to find the agency
to work them.

Resolution.

Submitted to Government with the request that
early orders may be issued for placing all famine relief
works in the Vizagapatam District under the control of the
Public Works Department.

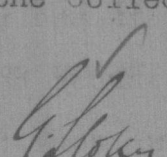
2. The Collector ~~of~~ states that "the eldest and feeblest
show a most praiseworthy ~~preference~~ preference for work over
gratuitous relief" is evidence of a very satisfactory spirit
and the same spirit has been noticeable every where.

3. The Board hopes that the recent rain fall, which is ~~known~~
known to have occurred but of which official intimation has
not yet been received may somewhat ameliorate the position.

Order thereon, No. 244 Press.d/9th April 1897.

The Board's proposal to place all famine relief
works in Vizagapatam under the Public Works Department is
sanctioned. Orders will issue in the Public Works Department
for taking over the two works already opened and for starting
such new works as may be proposed by the Collector.

(True Extract)


Ag: Secretary to Government.

To the Board (Revenue Settlement, &c)

To the Public Works Deptt. ✓

To the Local and Municipal Deptt.

To the Financial Deptt.

To the Accountant General.

9/1/97.