

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 1067 W

DATED 23 April 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Water supply in the Anantapur Dist. Provs.
Financial Dept authorizing the ex-
cess of Rs. 3000 at the disposal
of the Collector for the improvement of
— records with reference to No. 1067 W of 9 April 1897

Authorizing the Accountant-General to place a sum of Rs. 3,000 at the disposal of the Collector of Anantapur for the improvement of water-supply in the district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

G.O., Mis. No. 1602, Revenue, dated 24th March 1897.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 4th March 1897, No. 189 :—

Read—the following letter from K. C. MANAVEDAN RAJA, Esq., Acting Collector of Anantapur, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 17th February 1897, Ref. on C. No. 33 :—

I have the honour to request that sanction of Government be obtained for a grant of Rs. 3,000 for this district from the "Provincial revenue" in aid of local funds, for improvement of drinking-water supply in various parts of the district. As already brought to the notice of the Board in my fortnightly narratives, the supply in several parts is seriously deficient, and the Head Assistant Collector in a report just to hand makes the following remarks in regard to the water-scarcity felt in his division :—

The taluk board has already spent all its available funds on improvement of water-supply, and unless a grant from Provincial funds is sanctioned, there will be serious risk to life in many villages. My own tours have fully convinced me that wherever there is any large population of Madigas or Malas, the difficulty for drinking water is serious enough for them. I have seen in some places the Madigas doing their best to repair the existing wells, either by borrowing for the purpose or obtaining other assistance from the ryots. In some places, these low caste people have no access at all to drinking wells. Even in villages where the wells had ordinarily substantial springs, the supply this year has been found very moderate, and in fact, gradually failing. If the difficulty has been felt early in the cold weather, it is easy to conceive what the state of things will be when the hot weather sets in and all the existing sources fail to a great extent. Early last month, I had called the attention of the Divisional Officers to the state of water-supply in their divisions and requested them to make suitable provision out of the taluk board funds by effecting transfers from other heads if necessary, for remedying the water difficulty in such villages and also to apply, if funds were inadequate, for a grant from "Provincial funds," where such aid was considered absolutely necessary. In reply to this call, the Head Assistant Collector and President, Taluk Board, Penukonda, has forwarded an application for an allotment of Rs. 2,500 and has reported that the sums specified below for the villages noted against them are absolutely necessary :—

Locality.	Amount of estimate.
	RS.
(1) Madigas' well at Amarapuram, Madakasira taluk ...	35
(2) Beechaganpalli, Hindupur taluk ...	100
(3) Gummayyagaripalli, hamlet of Gorantla, Hindupur taluk ...	75
(4) Muthukur, Madakasira taluk ...	180
(5) Nidraghatta, Madakasira taluk ...	36
(6) Gowdanakunta, do. ...	40
(7) Gollapalli, hamlet of Duddabanda, Penukonda taluk ...	100
Total ...	566

The estimated amounts for some of the wells in the above appear to be rather excessive, and regular estimates will be obtained and scrutinized before the allotments are sanctioned. Of the other two Divisional Officers, the Head-quarter Deputy Collector has applied for a grant of Rs. 200 for Kaliyandrug. No report has been received from the Deputy Collector, Gooty, in spite of reminders.

2. In view of the circumstances explained above, I request that a sum of Rs. 3,000 be placed at my disposal for the present, for incurring emergent expenditure in connection with the improvement of water-supply and such other miscellaneous works.

	RS.
Anantapur Taluk Board ...	150
Gooty Taluk Board ...	574
Penukonda Taluk Board ...	1,245

The several taluk boards had only the marginally-noted allotments in the current year's budget, and these have been almost exhausted. No transfers from other heads are feasible. If on receipt of the detailed reports from the other Divisional Officers I find that a larger sum is needed, I shall submit a supplemental application for the required funds.

3. I enclose copies of the Penukonda Taluk Board President's letters, dated 30th January 1897, Dis. Nos. 50 and 52. In the first letter the Head Assistant Collector and President raises the question whether wells for which provision is made may be dug at ordinary rates of wages. I am not aware of any ruling on this point but from an abstract of B.P., dated the 19th February 1892, Mis. No. 1795 (copy of this B.P. is not available in my office), it would appear that "in localities where relief works are being carried out and where supervision is available on the spot, the clearing out of public wells by famine labour may be undertaken as being as useful a mode as any other of employing such labour. In places where relief works are not being carried out and where, presumably, relief works are not necessary, the deepening of wells at the cost of Provincial funds should only be undertaken, where a failure of water dangerous to life is otherwise anticipated." In such cases, the Collector may incur expenditure in anticipation of sanction.

Following the ruling in the B.P. above quoted, I have authorized the Head Assistant Collector to take steps accordingly, and request that my action may be approved. I further request the favour of the Board's instructions whether the *dictum* above laid down is in conformity with the provisions of the Famine Code as now revised, whether it applies to construction of wells and whether such constructions (or repairs, as the case may be) of public wells may be carried out at ordinary rates in the localities of the Head Assistant Collector's division, where at present no relief works are going on. I can see nothing in the Famine Code which is inconsistent with the Board's order above referred to.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From N. MacMICHAEL, Esq., President, Taluk Board, Penukonda, to the Collector of Anantapur, dated 28th January 1897, Dis. No. 50.

With reference to your Dis. No. 182, dated 14th January 1897, to B.P., dated 21st December 1896, No. 453, drawing my attention to Board's remarks in paragraph of the resolution regarding the improvement of drinking-water supply, I have the honour to state that Rs. 400 have been provided for this purpose from market funds and have been allotted to the following works, viz. :—

	RS.
(1) Repairs of well at Boochela in Penukonda taluk ...	100
(2) Do. at Damjipalli, Dharmavaram taluk ...	95
(3) Do. at Chagalair, Hindupur taluk ...	145
(4) Sanctioned a waterman for supplying water for Madigas at Penukonda ...	60
Total ...	400

This Board, in its present financial state, cannot allot any more for the purpose. It is unfortunately a fact that the Madigas in almost every village in the division are suffering from want of proper water-supply. To provide for proper wells in these villages, skilled labour is required and it is impossible to get such labour at famine rates. The principle is, I believe, that Provincial funds can only be used for this purpose when local funds have been exhausted. That is now the case. I do not know whether Provincial funds can be expended on the digging of wells at the ordinary market rate of labour; if not, nothing further can be done in the matter at present, for the people will not work at famine wages just now. If Provincial funds can be so used—and in my opinion there will be danger to life if wells are not dug and deepened in several villages—I have several estimates ready for immediate action.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From N. MacMICHAEL, Esq., President, Taluk Board, Penukonda, to the Collector of Anantapur, dated 30th January 1897, Dis. No. 52.

With reference to your Ref. on C. No. 33, dated 19th November 1897, I have the honour

Wells.	Amount of estimate.
1. Madigas' well at Amarapur taluk, about ..	35
2. Beechaganapalli, Hemrapur	100
3. Gummayyagaripalli, hamlet of Gorantla, Hemrapur taluk	75
4. Muthukur, Madakasira taluk	180
5. Midrashuta	36
6. Gowdankunta, Madakasira taluk	40
7. Gollapalli, hamlet of Duddanbanda, Penukonda taluk	100

to state that the Madigas of the marginally-noted villages are feeling very much the want of water, and I strongly recommend the provision of a grant from Provincial funds to meet the cost of construction of wells. Besides these villages, there are many others in Penukonda and Dharmavaram taluks where wells are urgently required. The probable amount required within the close of the current year, of course, depend upon when the amount is put at my disposal. I am prepared to spend

at least Rs. 2,500 before the end of the year on wells that are absolutely necessary if a grant is sanctioned forthwith; if it is not sanctioned till a month hence, only about half that sum could be spent. The other localities besides the villages mentioned are the Bukkapatam range of Penukonda taluk and the whole of Dharmavaram taluk. The reason for applying for Provincial funds is that no funds are available from the taluk board or other local fund source and the digging of wells is necessary to prevent danger to life.

Reference on the above, dated 20th February 1897.

The Collector is requested to report fully whether the District Board cannot make the necessary allotments for the improvement of water-supply. His attention is also drawn to the remarks made in paragraph 2, B.P. No. 88 of 1897, of which a copy is enclosed.

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Anantapur, with copy of B.P. No. 88 of 1897.

Read—also the following letter from K. C. MANAVEDAN RAJA, Esq., Acting Collector of Anantapur, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, dated 27th February 1897, Ref. on C. No. 33 :—

In reply to the Board's Ref. on General Register No. 1346 of 1897, dated the 20th instant, I have the honour to state that the district board has no funds whatever to make the requisite provision for the improvement of water-supply. The revised estimate of the district and taluk boards for the current year closes with deficit balance of Rs. 40,450 on account of the postponement of two kists from the current official year to the next, due to the alteration of the kistbandi of the district recently sanctioned by the Government—vide B.P., dated 3rd August 1896, No. 185 (Revenue Settlement).

Resolution—dated 4th March 1897, No. 189.

Submitted for the orders of Government with the Board's recommendation that a grant of Rs. 3,000 may be placed at the Collector's disposal for expenditure on the improvement of water-supplies where absolutely required.

2. The expenditure should be controlled as laid down in B.P., dated 19th February 1892, No. 1795, and, in places where it has not been found necessary to open relief works, such operations as are necessary may be carried out by piece-work.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary of Government, Revenue Department,
with copy of B.P. No. 1795 of 1892.
„ Collector of Anantapur.

Order—Mis. No. 1602, Revenue, dated 24th March 1897.

Orders will issue in the Financial Department for placing a sum of Rs. 3,000 at the disposal of the Collector.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secy. to Government.

To the Financial Department.
„ Local and Municipal Department.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Accountant-General.

Copy to the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, &c.).

ORDER—No. 286, Financial, dated 29th March 1897.

The Accountant-General is authorised to place a sum of Rs. 3,000 at the disposal of the Collector of Anantapur from savings under 11. Forest.

(True Extract.)

Alhwa
for Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
„ Local and Municipal Department.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Accountant-General.
Editors' Table.