

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

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Irrigation Cess: Gov., Rev. Dept., approving and sanctioning the proposals of the Board of Revenue for the levy of an — at 3as per acre and for the entertainment of ~~an~~ certain establishments for the maintenance of Nilaypur Channel with the Madras Dy. Council too officers concerned for information.

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
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Public works (1098) department

Current No: 1181

Government (1898) of Madras.
REVENUE.

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Enclosures

Spare copies 16

G.O., No. 48, 28th January 1898.

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JANUARY.

Communicated
to the officers concerned for information

To the Chief Engineer 1. 1866
Supt Eng VI Crichton
Ed 102 1866

Irrigation Cess.

Approving and sanctioning the proposals of the Board of Revenue for the levy of an —
at 3 annas an acre and for the entertainment of certain establishment for the maintenance of
Nilayur channel in the Madura district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, No. 721, dated 20th November 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from J. TWIGG, Esq., Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Dis. No. 37, dated 7th January 1897 :—

I have the honour to submit the following proposals for the introduction of a voluntary irrigation cess for the maintenance of Nilayur channel in the Madura taluk.

2. This channel is 18 miles in length, and irrigates from Melakkal to Nilayur taking off from the right bank of the Vaigai river. It has an open head to which water is diverted from the river by means of a Korambu which is constructed every year. Up to 1864, the villagers contributed for their share of Kudimarâmat a certain number of coolies as occasion required. This system was found by experience to work badly, as the villages scattered along did not readily contribute labour when required. The Kudimarâmat system was therefore given up and the following system was introduced at the beginning of 1864.

3. The eighteen villages benefited by the channel contributed at the rate of 4 annas per cawny ($1\frac{1}{2}$ acre) of wet lands irrigated by it and from the collections which amounted to nearly Rs. 1,000, one maistry on Rs. 14, one peon on Rs. 7 and 10 coolies on Rs. 6 each (costing in all Rs. 81 per mensem) were maintained, working under the supervision of the Madura Tahsildar. In 1886, a few of the ryots of two of the villages refused to pay the contribution and the system was given up; and the original system of Kudimarâmat by contribution of labour was revived. The result is that the channel has fallen into great disrepair in these few years and most of the villages have suffered much by partial loss of first crop and inability to raise a second crop. Rupees 70,260 was sanctioned in G.O., No. 537 I., dated 24th July 1894, communicated with B.P., Mis. No. 5188, dated 29th August 1894, for restoring the channel and its branches as well as the connected tanks, and the work is now in progress under the supervision of the Public Works Department. The maintenance of the channel by the ryots on Kudimarâmat after its repair by Public Works Department becomes a matter of great importance. The ryots of the villages having found the Kudimarâmat system to be impracticable have consented to pay a voluntary cess at the rate of 3 annas per acre on the irrigated area as an equivalent for the labour they are bound to contribute and have asked for the entertainment of an establishment similar to the one formerly entertained and have also undertaken to contribute any other customary labour which cannot be done by the proposed establishment. The written consent of most of the ryots concerned to this effect has been taken. Both the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector strongly support the proposal, out of the proceeds of the cess to entertain an establishment consisting of a maistry on Rs. 14, a peon on Rs. 7 and 10 coolies on Rs. 6 each (costing in all Rs. 81 per mensem) for the construction and the maintenance of the Korambus, for the regulation and distribution of water and for the clearance of silt in the channel and other sundry works which are usually done on Kudimarâmat.

4. I request that the Board will be pleased to obtain the sanction of Government for the introduction of the system from the current fasli. A statement showing the total extent of irrigation under this channel, the rate of cess which the ryots have consented to pay and the total cess leviable, is herewith submitted. The rate for baling has been calculated at three-fourths of that for direct flow.

STATEMENT showing the total extent of irrigation both occupied and unoccupied under Nilayur channel.

ENCLOSURE.

Name of the channel.	Direct irrigation from the channel.						Irrigation from tanks fed by the channel.						Total.	
	Natural flow.			Baling.			Natural flow.			Baling.			Extent.	Amount of cess leviable.
	Extent.	Rate per acre to be levied.	Amount.	Extent.	Rate per acre to be levied.	Amount.	Extent.	Rate per acre to be levied.	Amount.	Extent.	Rate per acre to be levied.	Amount.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
ACS.	782	0 3 0	146 10 0	ACS.	0 2 3	4 5 9	ACS.	5,442	0 3 0	1,020 6 0	ACS.	0 2 3	2 4 0	Rs. A. P.
Nilayur channel	..	..	..	31	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	6,271	1,173 9 9

Reference on the above, dated 19th January 1897.

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for favour of remarks.

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, with statement.

Copy to the Collector of Madura.

Read—the following letter from W. HUGHES, Esq., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture, No. 78-M., dated Madras, 8th March 1897 :—

In reply to your Reference, dated 19th January 1897, on Board's General No. 252 of 1897, I have the honour to remark that it is the duty of the Public Works Department to attend to the general periodical repairs of the Nilayur channel and connected tanks. There remains the construction and maintenance of the Korambu clearance of the head of the channel and regulation of the distributing sluices. Of these the last is the only one which goes on constantly during the irrigation season and it seems to me that its necessities should regulate the strength of the establishment permanently entertained. The other works have to be done occasionally and completed quickly, but there will be no adequate means of carrying them out if all the money is spent on establishment. The ryots cannot be expected to pay their cess and also find labour for the maintenance of the Korambu and channel head. For these reasons I beg to suggest that the proposals be re-considered, the establishment being reduced to a minimum and the rest of the funds held available for work other than distribution. The Collector does not state whether his intention was that the expenditure of the cess should be entrusted to the Revenue or Public Works Department. The Executive Engineer is strongly in favour of the latter and the Superintending Engineer agrees with him.

Reference on the above, dated 23rd March 1897.

Before obtaining the sanction of Government for the introduction of the voluntary irrigation cess referred to, the Board desires to have a report from the Collector submitting his views on the suggestions of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in regard to the strength of the establishment proposed and the department by which the expenditure of the cess should be controlled.

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Madura.

Copy to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Read—the following letter from J. TWIGG, Esq., Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Ref. on C. No. 1371-Gl., dated Kodaikanal, 28th August 1897 :—

Adverting to the Board's Reference on General Register No. 1872, dated 23rd March 1897, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. I agree with the Chief Engineer as regards the strength of the permanent establishment to be entertained. The strength of the establishment now proposed, the duties of which will be to distribute water and execute petty Kudimarâmat repairs, is as follows :—

	Cost per mensem.
One maistry on Rs. 12	Rs. 12
One peon on Rs. 5	5
Four coolies at the head of channel, at Rs. 4 each	16
Six coolies along the channel, at Rs. 4 each	24
	—
	57 or

Rs. 684 per annum against Rs. 972, the cost of the establishment proposed in my first letter.

3. This, the Deputy Collector says, will leave a sufficient balance for the payment of coolies temporarily required for Korambus and clearance of silt at the head of the channel, and for cost of materials for the Korambus as the cess is expected to produce Rs. 1,000 per annum.

4. As to the second point, I regret, I cannot agree that the expenditure of the cess should rest with the Public Works Department. There can be no question I think that the permanent establishment, whose duty is the distribution of water, must be under the control of the Revenue Department. As for the special works—construction of Korambus and clearance of the channel head—the Revenue Department can get the work done much more cheaply and promptly than the Public Works Department; it has the earliest information as to condition of crops, and is directly interested in getting the work done at the night time and rapidly. My experience does not lead me to expect that the work will be equally satisfactorily and punctually performed if entrusted to the Public Works Department, and I am strongly opposed to such a course.

Resolution—No. 721, dated 20th November 1897.

The papers read above, which contain proposals for the introduction of a voluntary irrigation cess for the maintenance of the Nilayur channel in the Madura taluk, are submitted for the orders of Government.

2. This channel is 18 miles long and irrigates lands in eighteen villages from Melakkal to Nilayur, taking off from the right bank of the Vaigai river. Water is diverted from the river into the channel through an open head by means of a Korambu or temporary dam constructed annually and requiring frequent petty repairs. Up to 1864, the villagers contributed towards the work in the shape of labour (Kudimarâmat) by sending a certain number of coolies as occasion required. As this system was found by experience to work badly (the villages scattered along the channel not readily contributing labour when required) it was given up in 1864; and a voluntary irrigation cess was introduced, as the ryots of the eighteen villages benefited by the channel agreed to pay a cess of 4 annas per cawny ($1\frac{1}{2}$ acres) on wet lands in lieu of the customary labour. The cess so collected amounted to nearly Rs. 1,000 per annum,

One maistry, at Rs.	14 per mensem.
One peon, at Rs.	7 „
Ten coolies, at Rs.	6 each per mensem.

Total cost per mensem 81

and the marginally noted establishment costing annually Rs. 972 and working under the supervision of the Tahsildar of Madura taluk was maintained. In 1886, the ryots of two villages having refused to pay the cess, the old Kudimarâmat system had to be revived, and the consequence was that the channel fell into great disrepair; and most of the villages suffered much by partial loss of first crop and inability to raise a second crop. The restoration of the channel and its branches, as well as the connected tanks was sanctioned by Government in its Order No. 567 I., dated 24th July 1894, and the work is now in progress.

3. In his letter first read above, the Collector reported that the ryots of the villages having experienced the impracticability of the Kudimarâmat system had agreed to pay a voluntary cess of 3 annas an acre on the irrigated area in order that out of the proceeds thereof an establishment similar to that referred to in paragraph 2 above might be employed for the maintenance of the canal and connected works

and for the regulation and distribution of water. The Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector having strongly supported the proposal, the Collector requested the Board to obtain the sanction of Government for the introduction of the system. The proceeds of the cess were estimated to amount to Rs. 1,174, and it was proposed to entertain an establishment costing Rs. 972 per annum.

4. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to whom the Collector's letter containing the above proposals was referred for favour of remarks, observed that it is the duty of the Public Works Department to attend to the general periodical repairs of the channel and connected tanks; and suggested that as the only item of other work which required constant attention was the regulation of the distributing sluices, the establishment to be permanently maintained from the voluntary cess might be fixed so as to be just sufficient for this work, and that the balance of the collections should be held in reserve to meet the cost of occasional and temporary works, such as the construction and repair of the Korambu, and the clearance of the head of the channel. The Chief Engineer also raised the question of the department to which the expenditure of the cess for these purposes should be entrusted, and stated that both the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer were strongly of opinion that it should be entrusted to the Public Works Department.

5. The Board called for a report from the Collector as to his views in regard to the establishment to be entertained and the department by which the expenditure of the cess should be controlled. The Collector agrees with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation as regards the strength of the permanent establishment and proposes accordingly to entertain an establishment costing only Rs. 684 per annum as noted in the

One maistry, at Rs. 12 per mensem.	
One poon, at Rs. 5 "	
Ten coolies, at Rs. 4 each per mensem.	
Total cost per month	57
Total cost per annum	684

margin against Rs. 972, the cost of the establishment originally proposed. As regards the expenditure of the fund, the Collector urges that the construction and maintenance of the temporary dam, and the clearance of the head of the channel can be best attended to by the Revenue Department, and the Board believes that

the ryots would also take this view. The Board would leave the expenditure of the fund in the Collector's hands. It recommends that sanction be accorded for the levy of the cess at 3 annas an acre from the current fasli and for the entertainment of the establishment proposed.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Madura.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

ORDER—No. 48, Revenue, dated 28th January 1898.

Irrigation No. 1.

The Board's proposals in the concluding paragraph of its Proceedings read above, are approved and sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture).
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.
60 Copies.