

Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE

Marine (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 730 I Marine

DATED 2nd Dec 1898.

Water Rates

[Despatch Abstract.]

From: Rev. Dept. Agreeing with the
Board of Revenue in considering that there should
be no enhancement of the — under the Rural
Kulya Project before the completion of the Suram
Reservoir. Stating that even after the reservoir
completed, the effect of raising the rates will
require to be very carefully considered, Commem-
orated to the officers concerned.

Dr

[illegible]

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Spare copies

Agreeing with the Board of Revenue in considering that there should be no enhancement of the — under the Rashikulya project in the Ganjam district before the completion of the Surada reservoir; and stating that even after the reservoir is completed, the effect of raising the rates will require to be very carefully considered.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—again G.O., Mis. No. 3060, Revenue, dated 16th June 1897:—

ABSTRACT.—Recording, with an expression of concurrence in the Board's views, Board's Proceedings passing orders on letter from the Collector of Ganjam submitting proposals regarding the revision of the present water-rates under the Rushikulya project; and requesting the Public Works Department to report when the Surada reservoir is likely to be completed.

Read—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 4567, Revenue, dated 31st August 1897:—

Read—the following G.O., P.W.D., No. 760 I., dated 19th August 1897:—

Read—the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, dated 28th July 1897, No. 395-G.N.:—

With reference to G.O., No. 626 I., dated 9th July 1897, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a letter No. 236-C., dated 22nd July 1897, from the Executive Engineer, Ganjam division, stating that he hopes to get the Surada reservoir sufficiently completed to take the supply of the north-east monsoon of 1898.

2. I would invite special attention to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the Executive Engineer's letter quoted above relative to the enhancement of water-rates, in which I fully concur.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. C. DEMORGAN, Esq., Executive Engineer, Ganjam Division, to the Superintending Engineer, I Circle, dated 22nd July 1897, No. 236-C.

With reference to your No. 358-G.N., dated 20th July 1897, I have the honour to inform you that I hope to get the Surada reservoir sufficiently completed to take the supply of the north-east monsoon of 1898. One or two questions which I am about to submit to you will need a speedy settlement.

2. In my opinion, it is much to be regretted that the present opportunity to enhance the water-rates on the project has not been seized. At present everything points to the demand for Rushikulya water being quite as great as last year. Applications are being received in large numbers.

3. I have further the honour to point out that the position of affairs in Goomsur taluk has been overlooked. The question of the completion of Surada reservoir in no way affects Goomsur, and the anomaly of charging first-class rates for water from rivers and nalas receiving a precarious supply, while the Mahanadi canal and lands under the Russellkonda reservoir are assessed at a lower rate, is allowed to remain. (See my letter, No. 4408, dated 3rd December 1896, to Collector, paragraph 6, and Mr. Venkata Reddi Nayudu's No. 2823, dated 22nd November 1896, paragraph 4, printed in Proceedings under reference.)

4. I must respectfully express my opinion that it is a great mistake to neglect the present favourable opportunity for enhancement, and to grant such very liberal terms, particularly in the case of Goomsur taluk.

Read—Endorsement by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, No. 156 I., dated 8th August 1897.

Order—No. 760 I., dated 19th August 1897.

Communicated to the Revenue Department with reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., Mis. No. 3060, dated 16th June 1897.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. J. WILSON,
Under Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.

„ the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ the Superintending Engineer, I Circle.

Order—Mis. No. 4567, Revenue, dated 31st August 1897.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. The Board's attention is drawn to the remarks of the Executive Engineer in which the Superintending Engineer concurs.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 5705, dated 22nd September 1898:—

Read—the following letter from H. D. TAYLOR, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 19th November 1897, R.G.B.C. No. 148-Ver.:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 7714*, dated 17th September 1897, enquiring whether, under present

* Communicating to the Collector of Ganjam circumstances, there is sufficient ground for re-opening the question of enhancing the water-rate under the Rushikulya project in this district, I have the honour to enclose a report from the General Deputy Collector, Goomsur, to which taluk the Executive Engineer, in advocating the enhancement, specially refers.

2. The grounds put forward for enhancement are—

(a) The opportunity offered by the late famine which has taught the ryots to value the water at its proper worth.

(b) The fact that at present in Goomsur a lower rate is charged for water under the canal than for water supplied through the older and more precarious sources of irrigation.

(c) The approaching completion of the Surada reservoir which will enable a more regular and constant supply of water to be guaranteed.

3. As noted before, the arguments put forth by the Executive Engineer, Ganjam division, have special reference to lands in the Goomsur taluk; but I must point out that the benefit which will accrue to Government lands in the Goomsur taluk by the completion of the Surada reservoir is practically nil. The only lands which will benefit in the General Deputy Collector's division are certain villages of the Dhárakóta and Chinnakimedi estates. The question of the Surada reservoir is of more importance as regards lands under the project situated in the Berhampur taluk.

A reference was made to the General Deputy Collector as to how the question would be affected by the recent successful experiments in the cultivation of a second crop. In reply that officer states that it will probably be several years before second-crop cultivation is spontaneously taken upon any considerable scale, and that it is

not therefore desirable to raise the rates on the strength of second-crop cultivation. To do so would probably still further retard the extension of second-crop cultivation.

Upon the general question, the General Deputy Collector is of opinion that in regard to Goomsur the arguments advanced by him in January last, against enhancement in rate are now equally strong, and that an increase in rates would probably result in a large decrease in the existing demand for water.

4. Turning to the first argument which will apply generally to the whole project, viz., that the present opportunity is a favourable one for enhancement in rate, as worth, I am inclined to doubt very much whether the late famine will result in any permanent increase in the demand for water. It is, on the other hand, quite possible that the ryots will speculate on the failure of the rain in fasli 1306 as more likely to guarantee a normal rainfall for the next five or six years at least, and I do not think the ryots will apply for canal water to any greatly increased extent until owing to the delay in the approach of any particular monsoon they are aroused to a sense of insecurity in any particular year.

I have now under consideration certain proposed rules for regulation of water-supply under the project. One of the main features in these rules is that water applied for, after certain fixed dates, will have to be paid for at enhanced rates.

Should these rules be brought into force the result will practically be an enhancement of water-rate in all years in which an extended demand for the same may arise, without there being any tendency to induce ryots to refrain from applying for water in the usual course in ordinary years—a result which might follow on a general and permanent enhancement in rates.

5. The above remarks refer merely to the special question as to whether circumstances, as they exist at present, render desirable any reconsideration of the orders previously passed on the subject in January last. I have shown that so far as Government lands in Goomsur are concerned, the question has not been affected by subsequent events.

On the other hand, the completion of the Suradā reservoir as noted in paragraph 11 of Mr. Weir's letter, No. 171-Ver. of 1897, dated 27th January last, will undoubtedly improve, and render more constant and reliable the supply of water both to zamindari lands in Goomsur and to lands generally, whether Government or zamindari in the Berhampur taluk.

6. Under these circumstances, and having reference to the recently expressed views of the Board and Mr. Weir, the permanent Collector, it is with some hesitation that I venture to propose a reconsideration of the previous orders.

There should, I submit, be one general rate for the project; it is not possible to allow one rate for lands in Goomsur and another rate for lands of the same class in the Berhampur taluk. If, therefore, it is decided to raise the rates in Berhampur, those in Goomsur should be raised also, even though no special conditions may have arisen within the past year, which in themselves would justify a revision of rates in that taluk.

7. The enclosed statement shows the present scale of water-rate under the project for each class of land, the rates for similar lands under ordinary sources of irrigation and the rate proposed by the various officers who have considered the subject.

As the Board is aware, the rates charged in this district are still further complicated by the recognised existence of the class of lands known as manavari or rainfed. Hence the large number of existing rates.

8. Taking first (c) water-rate for a single wet crop raised on ordinary dry lands, whether in Government, Zamindari or whole Inam Villages.—The present rate for canal water is Rs. 3 as against Rs. 4 under other first-class sources. This anomaly is specially referred to by the Executive Engineer as one which should be remedied. I am inclined to agree that so far as Government villages are concerned, the rate for canal water should be raised to Rs. 4, and not charged for at a lower rate than water supplied from older and more precarious sources of irrigation.

This point was not dwelt on by Mr. Weir in submitting his proposals of January last, though on 24th October 1895 the same officer wrote "The result is, however, so very anomalous, viz., that an actual reduction of water rates should be the consequence of an improved source of irrigation that I would ask the Board if this was really intended." Subsequently, however, it was decided not to make the reference as the loss involved would be very small and the then settlement would only be in force for two years longer.

I consider that there are no reasons for treating zamindari and whole inam lands under this head differently to Government lands, and the rate may be raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 under class (c) in case of all lands, on whatever tenure held. This proposal is in accordance with the general consensus of opinion of officers consulted as shown in the statement.

9. Class (b) rate per single wet crops raised on rainfed (manavari) lands whether in Government Zamindari or whole Inam Village.—The present rate is Rs. 2 for all classes of tenures. Mr. Weir recently proposed to enhance the rate to Rs. 3 in the case of Government lands only; but his proposals were not accepted by the Board. I should personally be glad to see the class of Government rainfed lands, which in a bad season are a menace to the prosperity of the district, entirely done away with and either assessed at dry rates and full water-rate charged, or else converted into wet, and with the object in view would treat them in no way differently to dry lands in assessing water-rate thereon.

In view, however, of the Board's inability to accept Mr. Weir's proposal to raise the rate to Rs. 3, I cannot now urge the increase in that rate to Rs. 4. I would merely re-submit on the same grounds as those previously urged that the rate should be raised to Rs. 3 in the case of Government lands of this class. In the case of zamindari lands, however, I would make a distinction. For this there are two reasons: firstly that rainfed lands in zamindaris are not separately demarcated and must be dealt with in the same way as wet (vide Mr. Johnson's letters embodied in G.O., No. 387, dated 23rd April 1892), and have hitherto, for the purpose of water-rate, and on the strength of Mr. Johnson's arguments, which still hold good, been treated as wet up to date; secondly the water-rate on such lands should be less than on similar lands in Government villages, because the zamindari lands are more highly assessed than Government lands, and half the profit resulting from the improvement in crop due to the canal water goes to the proprietor and not to the ryot, who alone bears the entire cost. So long as the system at present in vogue in the zamindaris of the district of sharing the produce continues, there is no means of remedying this. It is not possible to look for the recovery of any share of the water-rate from the zamindar or proprietor, in consideration of the extra benefit that he derives therefrom.

For these reasons, while enhancing the present rate, I would not enhance it to the same extent as in the case of rainfed Government lands; but would fix the rate at Rs. 2-8-0 as against Rs. 3 in the case of rainfed Government lands.

10. Class (a) "water-rate for a single wet crop on wet or mamul irrigated lands in Zamindaris and whole Inam Villages, the old sources of supply to which have not been interfered with, but for which canal water is taken."—For the reasons given in paragraph 9 the rate must be fixed in the same way as proposed for rainfed lands in the same villages, viz., Rs. 2-8-0 being an increase of As. 8 over the present rate.

11. (d), (e) and (f)—relate to charges on second crops. There is very little second-crop cultivation at present under the project, and for the present it is not desirable to enhance the present rates for this class of cultivation. Experiments are being made with a view to popularise the same.

12. (g) Water-rate for dry crops if irrigated whether first or second crop—is at present Rs. 1-8-0 per acre under the Rushikulya and Rs. 2 under first-class tanks. For the reasons given in paragraph 8, I would raise the rate to Rs. 2, to do away with existing anomalies; water for a dry crop is not likely to be asked for unless and until it is really required to save the crop.

13. Special-crop cultivation.—At present a uniform rate of Rs. 4-8-0 is charged; but it is obvious that more water will be required for such a crop if grown on dry land than if it be grown on wet.

Rs. 6 for dry lands on whatever tenure held.
Rs. 5 for rainfed lands in Government villages.
Rs. 4-8-0 for all other classes of lands.

In the case of rainfed lands, there is a slight material increase, but I do not think that the increases are such as will materially restrict the use of canal water, and, in the Berhampur taluk, they will be amply compensated for by the more regular and constant supply obtainable after the Suradá reservoir is completed. Second-crop cultivation, which it is desired to popularise, has not been in any way interfered with, while due regard has been paid to the interests of ryots in proprietary estates, who, while paying the full tax out of their pockets, share with their landlords the benefits derived from the same. The draft rules in regard to distribution and supply which I intend shortly to submit for approval will provide for the recovery of additional revenue in cases in which ryots wait until the last moment of an unfavourable season for applying for water. The result of such rules may induce a larger number of ryots to apply permanently for water in ordinary season.

From M.R.By. B. NARAYANA MURTI Pantulu Garu, General Deputy Collector, Goomsur
Division, to the Collector of Ganjam, dated Russelkonda, 26th October 1897. R.C.
No. 139C-Rev. :—

2. As regards the zamindaris lying in the Aska taluk, the irrigation areas thereof have much to do with Suradā reservoir. The reasons which appeared to me in January last to postpone the question of enhancing rates are, I respectfully beg to submit, equally strong even now and I do not find any altered circumstances at present in favour of enhancement of rates.

3. What has been stated above, of course, refers to the first crop. The second-crop experiment made with persistent efforts has no doubt been successful in the Bejjipatti village lands immediately below the reservoir. It may gradually extend and the ryots may spontaneously take to second-crop paddy, but in spite of its success, it is not as yet attempted spontaneously anywhere and it is too soon to presume that the people in Goomsur have learned to value it. The ryots of Bejjipatti may this year voluntarily grow second-crop paddy as they expressed themselves seeing the successful result of their experiment. I am not quite sure that there will be spontaneous attempts of raising second-crop paddy to any appreciable degree even in the current fasli for another two or three years to come considering how slow and obstinate is the Uriya ryot who is naturally lazy to take advantage of the opportunities afforded him for his improvement. In course of time, however, I have no doubt he will open his eyes and make best of the project water. I therefore deprecate all attempts to raise the rates, depending upon the second-crop experiment found successful for the first time in a particular village.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Number.	Items.	Scale under ordinary irrigation sources.		Sanctioned scale under the Rushikulya project.		Scale under the Rushikulya project proposed by						Remarks.	
		RS. A.	RS. A.	RS. A.	RS. A.	W. C. DeMorgan, Esq., Executive Engineer.	J. M. Lacey, Esq., Assistant Engineer.	Kai Bahadur W. Venkataraj, Naidu, Gaon, Assistant Engineer.	P. S. P. Bice, Esq., Senior Assistant Collector.	M. R. Ky. B. Narayanamoorthy Panthulu, General Deputy Collector, Goomrur.	C. J. Walr, Esq., Collector.	H. D. Taylor, Esq., Acting Collector.	
(a)	Water-rate for a single wet crop on wet or manul irrigated lands in zamindaris and whole man villages, the old sources of supply to which have not been interfered with, but for which canal water is taken.	..	2 0	2 0	3 0	3 0	2 0	2 8	..	..	2 8	2 8	
(b)	Water-rate for a single wet crop raised on rain-fed paddy (manavari) lands, whether in Government, zamindari or whole man villages.	4 0	2 0	2 0	4 0	4 0	3 0	4 0	4 0	..	Only Government	3 0	Government. Zamindari.
(c)	Water-rate for a single wet crop raised on ordinary dry lands, whether in Government, zamindari or whole man villages.	4 0	3 0	3 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	..	..	4 0	
(d)	Water-rate for a second wet crop raised on lands falling under either of the above three heads (a), (b) and (c).	2 0	1 8	1 8	2 0	(a) 1 8 (b) 2 0 (c) 2 0	1 8	(a) 1 8 (b) 2 0 (c) 2 0	2 0	..	..	..	No alteration.
(e)	Water-rate for a second wet crop or for sugarcane, betel, plantains, &c., requiring water longer than an ordinary wet crop raised on wet lands in zamindaris and whole man villages deprived wholly or partially of their old sources of irrigation, but which are entitled to free irrigation for only one wet crop—G.S., No. 6195, R.D., dated 3rd December 1891.	2 0	1 8	1 8	2 0	2 to 2 4	1 8	2 0	2 0	..	..	..	Do.
(f)	Water-rate on lands falling under either of the first three heads (a), (b) and (c) cultivated with sugarcane, betel and plantains, &c., requiring water longer than an ordinary wet crop.	6 0	4 8	4 8	6 0	6 0	4 8	(a) 5 0 (b) 6 0 (c) 6 0	..	..	..	6 0	Dry of all classes. Government rained.
(g)	Water-rate for dry crops if irrigated, whether first or second crop on lands falling under either of the first three heads (a), (b) and (c).	2 0	1 8	1 8	2 0	2 0	1 8	2 0	2 0	..	..	4 8	All others.
(h)	Water-rate for an irrigated dry crop raised as second crop on lands falling under head (e) and on registered single crop wet lands in Government villages.	..	1 8	1 8	2 0	2 0	1 8	2 0	2 0	..	..	2 0	No alteration.

Resolution—Mis. No. 5705, dated 22nd September 1898.

The irrigation accounts of the Rushikulya project for fasli 1307, which were received in July last, show that the total area irrigated in 1897-98 was 67,996 acres against 66,267 acres in the famine year 1896-97. This increase is the net result of an increase of about 5,000 acres in the Berhampur taluk, and of decreases amounting to 700 acres in the Goomsur taluk and to 2,600 acres in the Aska zamindari division. The Board has no information as to how far the increase in Berhampur was due to the extension of the project works there in progress; but it notes that nearly the whole of the increase occurred under "usual wet" lands, which are not liable to water-rate. Omitting usual wet areas in Government villages, and zemin and inam areas entitled to free irrigation, the total area chargeable with water-rate was only 29,028 acres against 32,348 acres in 1896-97, showing a decrease of about 3,300 acres. It thus appears, as the Collector anticipated, that the demand for water caused by the drought of 1896-97, materially slackened in the following year.

2. It is difficult to prophesy what the effect of enhancing the rates will be; but on the whole the Board considers that the orders already * passed should stand, viz., that the completion of the Suradá reservoir should be awaited before an enhanced scale of rates is introduced.

The Board is aware that the completion of the said reservoir will not improve the existing canal irrigation in the Government villages of Goomsur; but, as the Collector remarks, an enhancement of rates in the Goomsur taluk alone is undesirable, both in the interests of uniformity and because the ryots are only slowly learning to appreciate the value of an assured water-supply.

3. So far as the Board can gather the Collector's views from paragraphs 5 and 6 of his report, the Board's decision is in accordance with his sentiments. The Collector should address the Board again on the subject as soon as the improved supply, which is expected to follow the completion of the reservoir, has been secured.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASAR,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Ganjam.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copy of Divisional-officer's letter and
a statement, in original, to be returned.

ORDER—No. 632, Revenue, dated 1st November 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The Government entirely agrees with the Board that there should be no enhancement of the water-rates under the Rushikulya project before the completion of the Suradá reservoir. Even after the reservoir is completed, the effect of raising the rates will require to be very carefully considered. There is no objection to getting rid of anomalies in the rates or, as an inducement to the ryots to take water early in the year, to charging a higher rate if the water is not taken before a certain date. But it is to be borne in mind that the object to be desired is not to obtain an immediate increase of a few hundred or thousand rupees to the revenue, but, for the sake of the ryots as well as in the ultimate interests of the revenue, to induce the ryots to take the water over the whole area commanded by this project as freely as they do elsewhere under the older established irrigation

systems. Indeed in this view, the Board may consider whether special concessions may not be granted in the case of lands newly irrigated, as well as specially in the case of second-crop cultivation which generally the Uriya ryots at present seem to neglect altogether.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
Land Records and Agriculture), with a statement in original.
„ the Public Works Department (Irrigation Branch).

Exd. Shaik Karim.

