

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 2228 W

DATED 17 August 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Grant to the Chakamund Municipality-
Proo. Civil Deptt. making an additional
— of one lakh for acquiring the lands
forming the catchment area of the
Chakamund reservoir, recorded.

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

Making an additional allotment of one lakh to the head 45-A, Civil Works—Civil Officers from the balance of the undistributed provision under 45, Civil Works; and placing the sum at the disposal of the Local and Municipal Department for the purpose of a Provincial—in order to enable it to acquire the lands forming the catchment area of the Marlimund reservoir.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G. O., No. 751, Financial, dated 3rd July 1899.

Read—the following:—

G. O., No. 905-A. M., dated the 28th June 1899.

The insanitary condition of Ootacamund has for some time past been engaging the serious attention of His Excellency the Governor in Council. Towards the middle of the year 1898, a severe epidemic of typhoid fever occurred in the town, and an investigation which was made by the Sanitary Commissioner into the causes of the outbreak of this disease showed that besides other insanitary conditions then prevailing, the water of the Marlimund reservoir, which is the chief source of water supply, was contaminated with organic matter beyond the limits of safety. This result was ascribed to the existence of cultivation and human habitations within the catchment basin of the reservoir and to the fact that this area was entirely unprotected against trespass of men and cattle. Government accepts this view and considers that the acquisition of the entire catchment basin of the Marlimund reservoir is of vital importance to the health of Ootacamund as no complete control can otherwise be exercised so as to prevent the pollution of the water.

It has now been ascertained that the owner of the property will accept two lakhs of Rupees for the land enclosing the catchment basin, amounting approximately to 185 acres, subject to the condition that he be permitted to remove all the machinery and buildings belonging to him therefrom. His Excellency the Governor in Council, after due consideration of the financial condition of the Ootacamund Municipality and of the demands on it for sanitary improvements and drainage, has arrived at the conclusion that the Municipal Council cannot be called upon to provide the whole of this sum. He considers, however, that, if the house tax and water tax are levied at the maximum rates, viz., $8\frac{1}{2}$ and 8 per cent. the Municipality can afford to borrow one lakh of rupees in the open market. If the Municipality agree to borrow this amount for the acquisition of the Marlimund reservoir, His Excellency the Governor in Council will, in consideration of the facts above stated and of the general importance of a pure water supply to Ootacamund which is one of the principal sanatoria in India, make a grant of the additional lakh required from Provincial funds. The Chairman, Ootacamund Municipality, is requested to report at a very early date the decision which the Municipal Council have arrived at in the matter. If the Municipality decide to raise the loan, an application to Government for sanction in the prescribed form should be forwarded with his reply.

Order—No. 751, Financial, dated 3rd July 1899.

Recorded pending a further communication in regard to the proposed loan.

(True Copy and Extract.)

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Local and Municipal Department.

ORDER—No. 880, Financial, dated 4th August 1899.

The Ootacamund Municipal Council having decided* to borrow a sum of one lakh of rupees in the open market in order to enable it to acquire the lands forming the catchment area of the Marlimund reservoir, an additional allotment of one lakh will be made to the head 45-A, Civil Works—Civil officers from the balance of the undistributed provision under 45, Civil Works, and this sum will be placed at the disposal of the Local and Municipal Department for the purpose of a Provincial grant to the Municipality in accordance with the terms of G. O., No. 905-A. M., dated the 28th June 1899.

(True Extract.)

Aldington
for Chief Secretary.

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

ENDORSEMENT—No. 881, Financial, dated 4th August 1899.

Copy to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, in continuation of No. 580, Financial, dated the 8th May 1899.

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.