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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rule DEPARTMENT

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Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Revenue and Agricultural Department (Meteorology), dated Simla, the 27th October 1881.

BRADAGRAM

Letter No. 10, dated 24th February 1881, to the Home, Revenue and Agricultural Department, reviewing the Meteorological Report for the year 1879-80.

Read—

Letter No. 38, dated 3rd June 1881, from the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India, replying to the above.

Joint Memorandum on additional rainfall stations by Mr. E. C. Mack, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, and Mr. H. K. Blanford, Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India.

RESOLUTION.

The Government of India in reviewing (Home, Revenue and Agricultural Department's letter No. 10, dated 24th February 1881) the Meteorological Report for the year 1879-80 and the narrative which it gave of the progress of meteorological observations in India during the last five years, took the opportunity of drawing the attention of the Meteorological Reporter to the suggestions contained in paragraphs 31 to 41, Part I, of the Report of the Famine Commission, and called for information and proposals on the following points—

- (1) The existing practice in regard to the preparation and distribution of daily weather reports, and the measures considered necessary in order to secure a wider and more prompt publicity.
 - (2) The communication of timely and continuous information regarding the character of each passing season to the executive authorities, whose duty it would be to provide for famine.
 - (3) The wider diffusion of knowledge of the causes and nature of the periodical rains, not only amongst Government officials, but amongst the public generally.
 - (4) The improvement and extension of the existing system of meteorological observation.
 - (5) Continuance of the investigation of solar physics in relation to the fluctuations of the rainfall and the state of the sun's surface.
2. Mr. Blanford's reply is contained in his letter No. 38, of the 8th June 1881, and his proposals have since been fully considered in consultation with him.
3. In regard to the first head of inquiry, the Meteorological Reporter explained that under the existing system two kinds of daily weather bulletins are issued by the Calcutta Meteorological office; the one relating to the whole of India, is published by the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India; and the other, relating to the coasts of the Bay of Bengal only, is published by the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Bengal.

The daily weather bulletin published by the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India gives the result of observations at 50 stations in the fine season and of 84 in the rains. Of these stations, 50 are observatories which report throughout the year; 10 others are observatories reporting during the rainy season only, and 24 are stations which, though not observatories, telegraph the rainfall daily during the rains. From the 15th May to 15th October the daily bulletin is published at Simla, and the tabulated figures are supplemented

6. The Governor General in Council while concurring generally in the recommendations made by the Meteorological Reporter for improving the present arrangements in regard to the daily weather reports is of opinion that the end in view will be sufficiently obtained if a descriptive summary is appended throughout the year to the daily issues. The addition of a chart may for the present be dispensed with as it would involve a heavy outlay, and the report and statements should continue to be printed by the Government Press. This will effect a saving of the items numbered 4, 5, 6 and 7, amount of Rs. 240 under 8 in the table marked annexure A to this Resolution. Subject to these modifications and to the Secretary of State's approval to the appointment of a Scientific Assistant, the proposals are sanctioned. They will involve an annual expenditure of Rs. 11,233.

It has further been arranged that the monthly and bi-monthly reports shall in future be periodically supplemented by a short historical summary in a

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popular form of the weather phenomena of each half year. The first will embrace the period from 1st of May to the 31st of October (including an account of the southwest monsoon) and the second from 1st November to 30th April (giving an account of the cold weather rains in the north of India and the Carnatic monsoon in the south of India). The dates of publication will be the 1st January and the 1st July respectively for each year.

These proposals are tentatively approved by His Excellency in Council.

10. The extension and improvement of the existing system of meteorological observations form the fourth subject for consideration. The Meteorological Reporter's proposals fall under two separate heads:—(a) establishment of additional observatories and (b) the gain of information on the meteorology of Indian seas.

11. In regard to (a), Mr. Blanford proposed to create 7 new observatories, of which 3 should be in Mysore (Oudupatti, Karnool and Hegganmundry), 1 in Assam (Gauhati), and 3 in the Himalayas (one at Kailash on the upper valley of the Chandra Bhaga, and the other two at places to be selected in the interior of Kumaon). He also proposed to allow a salary to the observers at Oudupatti, Sambar, and Katmandu, who have hitherto received no remuneration. He also recommended the appointment of a well-trained European observer, who should visit various observatories and instruct, where necessary, the observers in charge. He also proposed to grant small additional allowances to a certain number of observing observers as a reward for good and accurate work.

These measures he estimated would entail a special outlay of Rs. 2,800 and an annual charge of Rs. 9,240 (see Annexure B).

12. It appears to His Excellency in Council that the Assistant referred to in paragraph 9 will not have to superintend the preparation of a daily chart as originally proposed, he might be partly employed in instructing observers at outlying observatories as occasion may demand. He would also at the same time inspect such observatories as come within the line of his journey, and thus afford material assistance to the Meteorological Reporter in a direction in which the proposed European instructor could render little or no aid. For these reasons the entertainment of a special instructor is considered unnecessary; the other proposals detailed in the Annexure B are sanctioned. Items Nos. 2 and 3 of the Table will stand as the allotments will probably be required to cover the travelling allowance charges of the Scientific Assistant. In fixing the position of the new observatories, the Meteorological Reporter will communicate with, and obtain the assent of, the Local Governments concerned.

13. For the purpose of promoting the study of marine meteorology Mr. Blanford solicited a grant of Rs. 5,000 to carry out the reduction and discussion of the 20 years' observations of Indian marine meteorology received from the London Meteorological Office. He also proposed to introduce under the immediate supervision of Mr. Blanford, Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Bengal, a system of collecting information regarding the weather on Indian seas through the medium of the Hooghly pilots and the logs (where obtainable) of vessels coming into the port of Calcutta.

The expenditure required for this purpose is shown in Annexure C, and amounts to Rs. 3,138 a year, besides a special outlay of Rs. 5,000.

14. The importance of extending our at present very imperfect knowledge of the meteorological phenomena over Indian seas, intimately connected as they are with the annual rainfall over continental India, has long been recognised. His Excellency in Council is therefore pleased to sanction as an experimental measure Mr. Blanford's proposals under this head. The concurrence of the Government of Bengal to Mr. Elliot's co-operation will be obtained.

15. The sixth and last point on which a report was called for was the best means of carrying out the suggestion of the Famine Commission, that the investigations already on foot as to the supposed coincidences between the fluctuations of rainfall and the state of the sun's surface should be continued.

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Mr. Blanford reported that, besides the solar investigations undertaken by the Great Trigonometrical Survey, actinometric observations are made at Alipore. But as the skies there are ordinarily unfavourable to the observer, preliminary steps have already been taken to obtain actinometric observations at Leh in Kashmir, under the supervision of Mr. Ney Elias, the Assistant Commissioner of Leh.

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Mr. Blanford further recommended that a trained European should be sent up to Leh to start these observations and to act as the permanent native observer to select a sapper of the requisite qualifications in England, who will be there instructed in the use of the Winstanley instrument as an adjunct to the actinometer. The term of his engagement should, it is proposed, be for two years at the end of which the native assistant observer at Leh will probably be able to conduct the work without further supervision. The pay of the sapper is estimated at Rs. 250 per month, and that of the native assistant Rs. 150, or an annual expenditure of Rs. 4,200. The cost of the Winstanley instrument would be in addition to this.

The Governor General in Council is pleased to approve of these proposals, and they will be submitted for the sanction of the Secretary of State.

16. Excluding nominal items, the sanctioned and sanctioned estimated expenditures involved in the several recommendations and suggestions which have been considered above, compare as follows:

	Actual	Proposed	Actual	Proposed
	Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.
I. Daily weather reports	12,743	3,300	11,233	
II. Observatories	9,250	2,800	9,550	2,800
III. Marine meteorology	3,138	5,000	3,138	5,000
IV. Solar investigations	4,500		4,500	
Total	29,631	11,100	28,421	7,800
Proposals sanctioned	25,731	7,800		
Reduction	3,900	3,300		

17. As far as possible, the arrangements sanctioned will come into operation from the 1st of April next, subject to any modifications which Local Governments for good and sufficient reasons may be disposed to recommend.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India for information and guidance.

Ordered also, that a copy be communicated to all Local Governments and Administrations, the attention of the Government of Bengal being invited to paragraph 14.

Ordered also, that copies be forwarded to the Foreign Department for communication to the Residents at Hyderabad, Mysore, and Noida, and to the Agents to the Governor General for Central India, Rajputana and Baroda for information.

(True Extract)

B. B. B.

Off. Secretary to the Govt. of India

The Secretary to the Govt. of India

1. A Scientific Assistant on a pay (minimum pay + 1 of difference)
2. Two Tabulators for preparing on Rs. 40, rising to Rs. 55 each = Rs. 102-5-0
3. A Draftsman on Rs. 10
4. Lithographic press and gas and setting up above
5. Materials for engine and press
6. A postman and two assistants, messman and a Native, each Rs. 12 =
7. Travelling allowance to British Pressman, Rs.
8. Extra accommodation at Simla
9. Rent of Simla telegraph hut
10. Additional postage charges
11. Additional telegram charges
12. Stationery and Local Government

TABLE A

	Annual expenditure	Special expenditure
1. Rs. 100 to 150	Rs.	
2. 10-8	8,000	
3. 10-8	250	
4. 10-8	150	
5. 10-8	3,000	
6. 10-8	300	
7. 10-8	200	
8. 10-8	1,525	
9. 10-8	435	
10. 10-8	700	
11. 10-8	2,500	
12. 10-8	4,080	
Total	23,795	4,300

TABLE B

	Annual expenditure	Special expenditure
1. A European Instructor on Rs. 150 rising to Rs. 200 (min. mens. pay + 1 of difference = Rs. 24 per month)	Rs.	
2. Fixed travelling allowance to Instructor at Rs. 50 for nine months	4,500	
3. Mileage for the Instructor's journey	450	
4. Allowance for seven native observers at Rs. 15 each	1,050	
5. Good service allowance: 30 days at Rs. 5, and 10 at Rs. 10	1,500	
6. Contingencies in the seven days of absence	800	
7. Contributions at the new observatory	700	
8. Instruments for station	2,100	
Total	12,100	1,800

TABLE C

	Annual expenditure	Special expenditure
1. Grant for temporary contingencies for education and discussion of meteorological data obtained from London	Rs.	
2. Special allowance to Mr. E. H. H. for superintending for the year 1907, the department of marine meteorology	1,000	
3. One copyist on Rs. 25 rising to 30 (minimum + 1 of difference = Rs. 62-3 per mensam)	300	
4. One draftsman on Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 (minimum + 1 of difference = Rs. 47-9 per mensam)	500	
5. One post on Rs. 6-8	78	
6. Contingencies	200	
Total	2,178	5,000

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John C. H. Brown, General, No. 271 E. 4th St. 1911-12.