M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	2057	Press / Mis.
	327-328	
Dated	26-10-1867.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 327. Read the following letter from W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Chepauk, 1st June 1861, No. 2,833:—

SIR,

In Cons. 11th April 1861, No. 2,224.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government, dated 9th April 1861, No. 795, Revenue Department, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit their final draft of the Rules for the levy of the water cess in the Godavery and Kistna Deltás, modified in essentials as directed by Government in regard to paragraphs 3 and 4, and also slightly altered in form by the Board in paragraphs 1 and 2, in the former case at the suggestion of the Director of Revenue Settlement, copy of whose letter* on the draft I am directed to append, but in the latter case without his concurrence.

* Dated 29th April 1861, No. 699, in Cons. 2nd May 1861, No. 2,722.

2. The Board's reason for the modification of Rule No. 2 is their desire to remove all room for doubt that the *permanent* and not merely the *temporary* sufficiency of the supply of water is the necessary condition for the inclusion of the land affected in the "irrigated" class. They consider that in its present form the Rule is more completely in accordance with Rule VIII (VII of the former draft).

3. The Board believe they have rightly interpreted the intention of Government, that it is to be optional with each individual ryot to take water for a second crop or not, as he thinks best for his own interests.

RULES FOR THE WATER ASSESSMENT IN THE GODAVERY AND KISTNA DELTAS.

I. The new Revenue Settlement will be made in the Godavery and Kistna Deltas on the principle of an assessment on the extent of the land, according to its natural capabilities, without irrigation, and a separate water assessment to be levied as follows:—

II. All lands now permanently supplied with irrigation for a single wet crop shall be classed as "Irrigated" and charged 3 Rupees per acre for water in addition to their fixed land assessment. Lands newly brought under irrigation, and classed as irrigated shall be assessed at one half of the above rate of 3 Rupees for the first year, and at the full rate in the subsequent years; provided, that, if the land is thrown up at the end of the first year, the full rate will be charged for it; though one Ryot may transfer his land to another without forfeiting the favorable rate for the first year.

III. Where water is supplied for a *second* crop of any description on Nanja land, a water rate of 3 Rupees per acre shall be charged for the same; but it shall be competent to any land owner to compound for irrigation for two crops, either for a term of years or in perpetuity, at the rate of Rupees 5 per acre payable annually (in addition to the land assessment) except on the occurrence of a total failure of water. Such composition shall not be for a less period than five years, and if it be made without limit as to time, one clear year's notice of its discontinuance must be given.

IV. Sugarcane, betel, plantains and other such garden produce remaining on the ground for the time of two crops shall pay 6 Rupees per annum for water all the year round; but the owner of lands so cultivated may compound under Rule III.

V. Temporary irrigation for a Nanja crop on dry land, shall be charged at the rate of 3 Rupees per acre for each crop besides the regular land assessment.

VI. Temporary irrigation for dry crops on dry lands shall be charged at 1½ Rupee per acre either for first or second crop, besides the regular land asessment.

VII. Land once classed as Nanja cannot be transferred to Punja, unless the means of irrigation fail permanently.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th October 1861.

VIII. When Ryots desire to irrigate dry land and to convert it permanently into the class of Nanja cultivation, application is to be made to the Collector, either direct or through the Tahsíldár, on or before the 31st March. The Collector will then arrange with the Public Works Department for the supply of water, and will direct the entry of the land under the head of Nanja, or irrigated. The arrangements for the supply of water to lands to be newly irrigated will be regulated by tracts, and not by detached fields.

IX. Where water is temporarily required for dry crops on dry land, application may be made in a similar manner, at any time, and the Collecter will arrange with the Public Works Department, for the supply, if other exigencies will admit of it.

X. Where water is surreptitiously taken by Ryots, double the water rate which would be chargeable according to these rules, will be rigidly exacted, and the parties thus taking it will be further liable to a criminal prosecution.

XI. These rules apply to all Inám lands, with the following exceptions. Lands which have been granted as Nanja Ináms, and fully irrigated accordingly, at the Government cost, will not be charged with water assessment, and such Nanja Ináms as were formerly imperfectly irrigated, and have since been fully supplied with water from the anicut works, will be charged at half the above water rates.

XII. The rules will also apply to Zamíndáries, except where a composition shall have been made either for a fixed yearly payment, or "according to the quantity of water supplied."

XIII. The arrangement whereby in a part of the Kistna Delta in the Guntoor District a consolidated water rate of 4 Rupees an acre has been introduced will be superseded by the present rules. But in the other parts of the Delta in that District where the system of Nanja rates prevails, that system will remain undisturbed till the new Revenue Settlement.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

No. 328. ORDER THEREON, 26th October 1861, No. 2,054.

The Rules submitted by the Board are approved and sanctioned.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

N.° 699.

From

H. Neaill Esquire

Director of

Revenue Settlements

To

J. D. Sim Esquire

Secretary to the

Board of Revenue

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 19.th Instant forwarding for my observations a draft of the Irrigation Rules for the Godavery and Kristna deltas revised in accordance with the order of Government dated 9.th Instant N.° 795.

2. In para 7 of your letter it is stated that "the Board understand it to be the intention of Government that the taking of water for a second crop shall be optional with each individual ryot. I do not gather from the Government Order that this is intended as regards each individual ryot though in para 12 the composition

Composition for the water for 2 Crops is entirely optional. On the other hand the Government say it is desirable that the Second Crop water should be "reserved for the best lands and the more valuable Crops". This certainly implies a selection of lands for the purpose which may be conveniently made by the Collector and the District Engineer, consulting of course the convenience of the ryots: If the ryots are allowed to pick out fields here and there, and to constantly change them for second Crop irrigation there is likely to be much confusion and irregularity both as regards the distribution of the water, and the Collection of the water rate.

3. Practically I do not anticipate any difficulty in the course to be adopted. The Revenue and Engineer Officers will select the lands to be irrigated for the 1st. Crop in such localities as may be suited to the Ryots and with the object in view in para 9 of the Government Order.

4 I would now make a few remarks on the rules as proposed. In Rule 1, I would omit "taking into account its irrigable properties" as practically this can only be done imperfectly, and it is better to leave out what may thus prove a source of further discussion.

5 As regards the modification proposed by the Board in Rule 2 I would observe that the terms "fully irrigated" and "for a single Crop of paddy of whatever discription" were inserted in the Rule with the object on the one hand of preventing evasion of the full water rate on inferior discriptions of paddy in accordance with the existing custom, and on the other hand to admit of a modification of the rate under special circumstances such as when water is raised by pacottas, and otherwise imperfectly supplied. I would therefore prefer the wording of the rule as it now stands modified as follows to remove the doubt entertained by the Board Viz.

Insert "classed as Nunjai and" after "on all land". Omit "on Nunjai lands" as unnecessary

unnecessary with the above modification. The next sentence to be modified as proposed by the Board & viz "Lands newly brought under irrigation and classified as Runjai 1st ca."

6. As regards the conversion of dry land into Runjai, Rule 8 seems to me to make all requisite provision new tract of land will not be forced upon the ryots for irrigation and the Collector will have the power of laying out lands for which irrigation is wished as best suited to the interests of all parties. I do not see that arrangements on this point could be placed on any better footing.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant
(Signed) H. Newill
Director of
Revenue Settlement

Revenue Settlement Office
South Arcot District
Chellambaram Taluk
29th April 1861.

To
J. D. Sim Esqre
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Chepauk.

(True Copy)

R. Sinclair
Secretary

E. Hamilton

Rec'd Govt for October.

No. 1312.

From
The Secretary to
the Bd of Revenue

To
The Secretary to Govt
Revenue Deptt

Dated 1st
Despd 3rd
Recd 3rd
} Same/61

No. 2054. 26. Oct.

Encls 2 -

Encls 2 No. 2853.

Submitting final draft of the Rules for the levy of water Cess in the Godavery and Kistna Deltas -

With an order

Note. The Bd's Rules seem to be perfectly correct. Until the question of the Kistna settlement is finally determined the rules will chiefly affect the Godavery.

Mr Merrill wishes to define the rights individually at the option of taking or declining second crop water - I doubt that point intended this or that it would be right - The full value of the water is charged and this will lead in practice to the water being reserved for the best lands - The people are better judges of them who are entered than the Revenue Officers S. D.

* The Board's rules seem to be possible

9th April 1861 No. 145 - 14th

No. 2054 -

22/4/14 The Rules submitted by the Board are approved and sanctioned -

Fort St. Geo
26 Oct 1861.

Copy to Bd. of Rev. 26/10
to do 29

19th October No. 327 + 328 -

Forwarded letter to England 2nd Question 1861 Oct 26