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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	150	~~Press~~
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated	20 . 4 . 1872	195
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,

6th April 1872.

No. 123. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th March 1872 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector and President of the Local Fund Boards, Godavery District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Jaggampeta, 12th January 1872, No. 1 :—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, estimate, survey, &c., for the construction of a road from Rajahmundry to Rahitapuram along the east bank of the Godavery.

One survey.
Two masonry plans.
One abstract estimate.
One specification.

2. The estimate amounts to Rupees 46,300 without gravelling, the cost of which can be calculated after the project has been sanctioned. It lies within the limits of the Rajahmundry Circle, and has received the unanimous approval of the Local Board, on condition that the Government, for reasons stated below, will consent to bear a fair proportion of the cost.

3. The length of the road is 11 miles and 1,418 yards as at present estimated for ; but it will probably be necessary to carry it on six miles further to the village of Purushottapatnam to secure the object in view. This is of a twofold nature, viz., to afford means of communication to a part of the district, at present wholly destitute of such accommodation, and to protect from inundation by the Godavery 1,329 acres of culturable land, assessed at Rupees 3,530, the property of Government, which are now annually submerged for want of a protecting embankment to the river. Taking the average cost per mile of the portion already estimated for at Rupees 3,940, the cost of the additional six miles will be, in round numbers, Rupees 20,000, or Rupees 70,000 for the total length of seventeen odd miles. The Sub-Collector, who has recently visited the locality, writes as follows :—

"I am of opinion that the work as an embankment will be of very great value to the villagers of that neighbourhood, and will greatly increase the value of their lands. I have obtained an account showing the area of Government land now waste on account of these floods, but which the people expect to be able to cultivate after the embankment has been made. It shows an extent of acres 1,329, assessed at Rupees 3,530. A capital sum of which this would be the interest at five per cent. only would amount to Rupees 70,600. The Zemindars who own some nine villages which will be improved by the work will, I have no doubt, subscribe. They have been addressed, but their replies have not yet been received."

4. The Superintending Engineer expresses his views as follows :—

"As regards the road from Rajahmundry to Rahitapuram, I beg to observe no delta works are endangered by the river floods rising over the lands between those places. A very large tract of country is subject to inundation every year for want of an embankment thereabouts with suitable masonry works, and very considerable damage is done to lands belonging both to Government and to Zemindars for want of this protection ; but the Sub-Collector of the District will probably be able to give the President more information on this point than I am able to do as regards revenue matters. In a professional point of view, the banks of a delta river is the proper location for the road which, at the same time that it affords facilities of communication, can be taken along an embankment of such a height as to protect the adjacent lands from being inundated every year by the river. The cross road proposed to join the Korukonda road will afford no protection to the lands, and will be itself, during several days of the year, surrounded with water on either side, as it has to run through the low grounds I wish to protect. Of course, the cost of repair and maintenance of such a work will be considerable, and I do not recommend its continuation. If the work is carried out as an embankment, the Government would probably subscribe a fair share of the cost in proportion to the land belonging to them which would be protected."

5. Having thus demonstrated that the work in question will not only benefit local interests by opening up a rich tract of country bordering the Godavery river by a road passing through eight villages, exclusive of the important termini Rahitapuram and Rajahmundry, and opening the market of the last-named place to them, but will also, by the reclamation of an extensive area

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of country, bring in additional revenue to the State of between Rupees 3,000 and Rupees 4,000. I think I am justified in requesting that the execution of the project may be assisted by a grant from Provincial Funds. It has already been shown that, if the Government bore the entire charge, there would be a direct return of five per cent. The Local Fund Board ask the Government to pay half, on which they will get a direct return, in the shape of increased revenue, of ten per cent. on the outlay. It is anticipated that the Zemindars whose properties will be improved will contribute one-fourth, leaving one-fourth to be paid from Local Funds, *plus* the cost of metalling and gravelling (not included in the estimate), which, owing to the nature of the soil through which the major portion of the road passes (alluvial deposit), will be heavy, and also the cost of maintenance.

6. If the grant-in-aid now solicited is withheld, this useful project must, I fear, be abandoned, as the Board would not be justified in executing, without such assistance, a work by which the imperial revenues will so largely benefit; unless, indeed, the Government would consent to assign to the Board the lands which it is anticipated will be reclaimed thereby. As, under the Act, power is given to the Board to acquire land, there would be nothing irregular in this: the Government would risk nothing and lose nothing; whilst, on the other hand, what is now a submerged waste would be brought under cultivation, and would yield a remunerative return for the local funds invested.

This estimate for making a road 11 miles and 1,418 yards long between Rajahmundry and Rahitapuram, at a cost of Rupees 46,300 (exclusive of metalling), will be submitted for the orders of Government. The importance of establishing a communication between these two places is clearly proved.

2. It is anticipated that the road must be prolonged six miles, at a total expense (exclusive of gravelling) of Rupees 70,000.

3. The road being carried on a raised embankment on the bank of the river will then protect from annual inundation 1,329 acres of cultivable land, assessed at Rupees 3,530, the property of Government, besides improving the property of certain Zemindars.

4. The Circle Board expect that the Zemindars will subscribe one-fourth of the cost of the road, and they are ready to pay one-fourth of the cost of road-making and the whole of the sum required for metalling, as well as to keep the road in repair when it is once made.

5. They request that Government will bear the remaining half of the cost of making the road (exclusive of metalling), or about Rupees 35,000. The return on this outlay from the assessment of reclaimed land will be ten per cent.

6. The President proposes that the money should be supplied from Provincial Funds, but the Board of Revenue consider it is a matter for imperial expenditure, ordinary or extraordinary, as Government may deem best.

7. The road appears as Item 14 in Part I. of this year's Budget with an allotment of Rupees 2,000.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 124.

ORDER THEREON, 6th April 1872, No. 459.

The Government approve and sanction the construction of the proposed road along the left bank of the Godavery river, from Rajahmundry up to Rahitapuram and Purushottapatnam.

2. It is proposed that Government shall contribute Rupees 35,000 towards the total estimated cost of Rupees 70,000, in consideration of the security and advantage to the public revenues which will be derived from the embanking and reclaiming of cultivated and culturable land, now exposed to flooding and injury every year. The proposal seems reasonable, and it will be considered in

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the Public Works Department how funds from the agricultural grant, ordinary or extraordinary, can be allotted for the purpose.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

.. Accountant-General.

.. Revenue Department. ✓

.. Public Works Department, with three maps and two enclosures.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

10 Span Chief

Revenue A No 1341

Obdt. of 118723 Madras
FINANCIAL.

To THE BOARD OF REVENUE
No. 1341

Dated April 6th
Recd. 1341

G. O. 6th April 1872, No. 1341

APRIL.
Nos. 123-124.

Sanctioning the construction of the proposed road along the left bank of the Godavari river from Rajahmundry up to Rajahmundry and Puri shikharabada, and issuing certain instructions to the Public Works Department regarding the cost

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RECORDED.
20-2-1872