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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	165	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 29. 1. 1872 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 445. From the Acting Superintendent Engineer, 5th Division, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Madras, 23rd January 1871, No. 227.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the sanction of Government from the "Reserve Agricultural" for 1871-72, an estimate, amounting to Rupees 11,250, accompanied by plans and specification report for restoring the Andyapanoor Emam Sahib tank in the Tripatore Talook, Salem District.

- 1 Survey.
- 3 Plans.
- 1 Estimate of Rupees 11,250.
- 1 Specification.
- 1 Revenue Statement.

2. The construction of a tank in the gorge of the Javady hills, some 3 miles to the south-east of Andyapanoor in the Tripatore Talook, was a project of a certain Emam Sahib, who in former years, as Mittahdar of Andyapanoor, farmed from Government the land included within the limits of that village.

3. About forty years ago this Mittahdar put his project into execution, but owing either to want of skill or forethought, the work was never brought to completion. He appears to have set to work by closing up, at one and the same time, the whole of the gorge, inclusive of the jungle stream which runs in its centre. This stream is called the Paupankanataur (*Anglice*, the river of the Brahmin's well), and it runs at times with great force.

4. From the appearance of the work it may be inferred that Emam Sahib must have failed in his bund from inability to complete the work with sufficient rapidity, so as to reach the height of his calingulah in time to prevent the water overflowing and breaching the embankment.

5. For filling up this breach, and for the construction of two sluices and a calingulah, the present project now provides.

6. If the project be sanctioned and the work carried out, it is anticipated by the Revenue Authorities that there will be an increase of revenue amounting to 22 per cent. on the outlay.

7. I have inspected the site of this tank, and I feel satisfied that, with ordinary precautions in execution, the work can be satisfactorily completed, and that it will prove not only advantageous to the Government, but a great boon to the ryots of Andyapanoor, who, although a considerable quantity of rain falls during the year in their neighbourhood, are subjected to want of means of storage, to much misery for themselves and to great strain for their cattle, in consequence of the almost total absence of water during the weather.

8. From my own experience and from the inquiries I have made, I am satisfied that the rainfall about Andyapanoor is considerable and topical, or due to local causes. The peak of the Javady hills attracts the rain clouds, and heavy rain frequently falls at the head of the tripankanataur valley, when but a few miles off there is no rain at all. The construction of a tank would no doubt increase the condensing power of the valley, and the rainfall would in consequence be still more frequent and copious. The tank undergrowth of jungle that is met in this valley is in itself a clear indication of a considerable rainfall, and, I may add, of a fertile soil.

9. The tank now projected is to contain, when full, upwards of one million cubic yards of water; sufficient for the irrigation of 250 acres, and there is every prospect of an amount being collected enough to fill the tank at least twice during the season of collection.

10. I should have preferred to have been enabled to submit this project in a more complete shape, than is now the case, as regards preliminary details of investigation; but, under the existing circumstances of the range, to request the preparation of such a project is tantamount to solving the question altogether. But is this latter altogether a justifiable course? We have here a project that will presumably recoup its original cost within five years, and afterwards pay the Government a revenue of Rupees 2,500 per annum. I say presumably, but even supposing that it is ascertained, after a protracted investigation carried on by a qualified Surveyor, specially appointed for the purpose, that the anticipated returns are considerably less than, or even one-half of those now stated, is that a sufficient reason for the Government to quash the matter, or defer it to some more convenient opportunity, considering the wretchedness and the hardships that are suffered, as already mentioned, by the ryots for want of the water which this project is calculated to supply? I cannot bring myself to believe that the Government will take this view of the matter, and I submit the project therefore with every confidence of sanction being obtained for the same.

No. 446.

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

I AM sorry that I cannot record the sanction of the estimate of Rupees 11,250 for the restoration of the Panoor Emam Sahib tank in the Salem District. The area of the drainage basin has not been even approximately given, and yet upon this, coupled with the estimate of the water supply must, in the absence of observations of the nullah, be based. It appears to me that the capacity of the tank has been over-estimated; its superficial area is only about four-fifths of that stated in paragraph 5 of the specification, or, say, 135,000 square yards, and the average depth is, as far as I can judge from the sections given, about 5 yards, so the contents would be about 675,000 cubic yards; allowing that 6,000 cubic yards per acre would suffice, owing to the tank refilling after it had been partially emptied, it would cultivate would be about 113 acres, and this at 4 Rupees an acre would give a gross return of 452 Rupees, or a little more than 4 per cent. on the amount of the estimate.

2. Without some definite information as to the area of the drainage basin or of the maximum discharge of the nullah, it is impracticable to judge whether the waste weir is of sufficient capacity, and whether, with a given length, the margin would be enough.

3. It ought hardly to be necessary to point out that the Revenue Authorities (paragraph 6 of Superintendent's letter) can only state what the assessment of lands irrigated would be in a case like the present the Public Works Department must show for a water can be given, and what land is available within the limits of the command of the sluices. Estimates of anticipated returns must be valueless unless based

No. 50.

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4. It is not stated whether any existing revetment will be retained; the total number of cubic yards required, according to paragraph 7 of the specification, would be 8,888, and only 4,665 are entered in the estimate.

5. It is doubtful whether the sluice would, according to the proposed arrangements, irrigate the area, 525 acres contemplated; the two new ones would be useless when the water had fallen 5 feet below full tank level.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
24th February 1871.

(Signed)

J. MULLINS, Major, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 447.

ORDER THEREON, 17th March 1871, No. 808.

IRRIGATION, No. 35.

ORDERED that the note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation be communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, who should, if it be found that a satisfactory project can be worked out, re-submit the estimate with fuller information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd E. C. Shunker.

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER.

5th Division.

17th March 1872.

17th March 1872.

17th March 1872.

17th March 1872.

G.O. 17th March 1872, No. 808.

MARCH

Nos. 445-447

Andyapanoor Emam Saib tank. The
to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation
deciding to recommend for sanction the
estimate for the restoration of the Andyapanoor
tank in the Salem District, com-
municated to the Superintending Engi-
neer of the 5th Division.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 25th January 1872.

No. 482. Read the following letter from the Officiating Superintending Engi-
neer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works
Department, dated Shevaroy, 1st January 1872, No. 212:—

WITH reference to G. O., No. 808, of 17th March, I have the honour to inform
you that I have examined the site of the old Andyapanoor tank proposed to be
restored, and have come to the conclusion that the merits of the scheme in a
remunerative point of view are extremely doubtful.

2. With paragraph 1 of the note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, forwarded
with the above quoted G. O., I quite agree. The area and capacity of the tank
have both been considerably over-estimated; moreover, the ground in the bed is
densely covered with jungle to clear which would cost a very considerable sum,
and, on the other hand, unless this be cleared the tank would soon silt up to the
level of what is left uncut.

3. It is only reasonable that the information noted by the Chief Engineer in
his paragraph 2 should be supplied, but to obtain it in anything like a satisfactory
manner, a considerable expenditure will be required to cut and clear jungle to
allow of the drainage basin being anything like accurately mapped, for the jungle is
extremely thick and the hills enclosing the valley at the upper end very difficult of
access, while to obtain reliable results as to the rainfall, observations extending over
certainly two years should be made, this alone involving a considerable expense.

4. Looking then at the project from all points of view, I am inclined to think
that not only is its remunerativeness very doubtful, but that considering the
difficult character of the ground and the difficulty of obtaining reliable data on
which to work, the scheme is one that may well be allowed to lie over until the
many much more promising undertakings now proposed, or under investigation,
have been disposed of.

No. 483. ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1872, No. 249.

IRRIGATION, No. 43.

BEFORE considering the proposal
to defer the project for restoring the
Andyapanoor Emam Saib tank in the
Salem District, the Government desire to be furnished with the opinion of the
Collector, which will be called for through the Revenue Department.

(Tr Extract.)

[Signature]
Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division
" Revenue Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

Expenditure 8th