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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

17

Press
Mis.

Dated

6-1-1873

196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th December 1872.*

5. In the 4th Division the sanctions and expenditure are as per margin. The latter is very small, but the Superintending Engineer explains that the cause of the short expenditure is that, though the works rendered necessary by the late cyclone are under progress as many

	Sanctions.	Expenditure.
Presidency	...	...
Chingleput	...	...
North Arcot	...	...

No. 3,174, 24th October 1872.

of the estimates are still unpassed, but small payments have been made for work executed, and that he hopes the full allotments will be expended. The sanctions and expenditure on Minor New Works are very unsatisfactory. This is due to the estimates having been detained in the Collectors' offices, as stated by the Collector in his letter on which G. O., No. 2,487, dated 22nd October 1872, was passed. The estimates appear to have been called for by the Superintending Engineer, and have been returned to the Range Officers for revision.

6. The allotments in the 5th and 7th Divisions and in Tanjore are being well worked up to; but in Trichinopoly the sanctions and expenditure are about two-thirds and two-sevenths of the allotments, respectively.

7. In the 8th Division the sanctions and expenditure are as per margin. The Superintending Engineer being called on to afford explanation relative to the short outlay in Madura states that he is "not prepared to give any special explanation of the cause of the small expenditure," and has applied for an increase in the allotment for the division to the sum originally* sanctioned but which was reduced to Rupees 1,21,400 in

	Sanctions.	Expenditure.
Madura	...	...
Tinnevely	...	...

No. 3,881, dated 25th October 1872.

G. O., No. 1,671, of 11th July 1872, and requests that the amount may be distributed as follows:—

No. 3,291 of 22nd October.
* Rupees 1,38,000.

	Rs.
To Tinnevely	92,000
„ Madura	46,000

8. With regard to short expenditure generally under Agricultural Repairs and Minor New Works, I may observe that it appears to be generally due to the following causes:—

1st.—To estimates to the amounts of the allotments not being sanctioned till late in the year and to the working season being in a great degree lost in consequence.

2nd.—To the Members of the Department of Public Works in many districts looking to the Revenue Department to take the initiative in selecting works to be repaired instead of selecting them themselves.

3rd.—To the subordinates or Range Officers not being informed of the amount which can be made available for their Ranges and up to which, or to twenty-five per cent. beyond which, they may submit estimates. When subordinates are informed of the amount to which estimates will be passed for their charges they

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are far more likely to be careful in selecting works and in estimating for them than when estimates are submitted without any limit and without a possibility of many of them being passed.

9. With regard to No. 1 I have to remark that estimates to the amount of about seventy-five per cent. on the average allotment of a year should be ready for sanction by the end of November at the latest; full advantage can then be taken of the working season. All estimates under Rupees 500 ought then to be completed by the end of March. The larger estimates are not cancelled at the end of the official year, and arrangements should be made for the work under them being carried on uninterruptedly. Now the system in some districts is that all estimates for repairs are cancelled at the close of the official year, and the consequence is that two of the best working months are lost. If full advantage is not taken of the working season and of periods when labour is abundant, the Public Works Officers have to compete with the cultivators for labour and more or less interfere with agricultural operations, and this is to be deprecated.

10. By November the expenditure has probably amounted to fifty per cent. or more of the allotments, and hence estimates sanctioned to seventy-five per cent. of the average allotments would bring the sanctions up to about twenty-five per cent. in excess of the allotments. Sanctions to this extent are admissible under G. O., No. 44, dated 6th January 1866; but, if work is required and can be done in excess of the allotments, it could be provided for by sanctioning estimates for the following year and by putting the works in hand on the condition that payment shall be made for them after the commencement of the new official year. Where work is executed by contract and the Department has obtained the confidence of the people there will be no difficulty in getting work done on these terms.

11. In the districts generally sufficient advantage is not taken of the sanction accorded in G. O., No. 44, and, as it is impossible to work out all the estimates in hand to a day, in the middle of the working season, when the official year unfortunately terminates, if estimates are sanctioned only up to the allotments the expenditure must inevitably fall short of the allotments.

12. With regard to No. 2 I have to observe that after a very short stay in a Range the Range Officers must know far more of the requirements of the works in their Ranges than any Member of the Revenue Department, under the present system, can possibly do, and, though gladly availing themselves of any information from the Revenue Department relative to the requirements of particular works, the Range Officers should not depend upon that Department for information but should act upon their own knowledge of the requirements of their respective charges.

13. If attention is paid to the points adverted to in paragraphs 8 to 12 there is but little doubt that the allotments might be fully expended; but this would be more certainly attained if appropriations to the amount of 5 or 7½ per cent. in excess of allotments were permitted, as recommended in Note No. 271, dated 14th November 1872.

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16th December 1872.

No. 312. Statement of Amounts sanctioned and expended on Repairs and Minor New Works, Agricultural, during the current Official year up to 30th September 1872.

Districts.	Allotments for Repairs.	Amounts of estimates sanctioned.	Amounts expended.	Allotments for Minor New Works.	Amounts of estimates sanctioned.	Amounts expended.	Remarks.
Ganjam	RS. 30,000	RS. 19,559	RS. 8,909	RS. 1,000	RS. 788	RS. 494	RS. 1,09,026 of 1872-73. works of
Visakhapatnam	17,500	17,244	14,512	500	489	75	53,757 Incomplete 1871-72.
Godavery	1,73,500	1,44,254	87,140	6,000	5,981	4,296	* 1,62,783 + 7,513 Total.
Krishna	83,000	1,62,783*	60,031	5,000	7,513†	2,031	The Range Officer's attention has been again called to the necessity for utilizing their allotments.
Nellore	80,000	1,62,209†	29,463	5,000	5,033	2,107	
Bellary	51,500	44,752	12,773	4,000	1,666	394	
Cuddapah	65,000	38,587	6,062	4,000	1,241	114	
Karnool	25,000	19,918	6,337	2,000	519	365	
Presidency	3,000	760					
Chingleput	1,10,000	51,778	6,845	5,000	116	757	RS. 48,202 of 1872-73. works of
North Arcot	1,85,000	1,44,191	24,165	6,000	1,221	2,604	1,17,097 3,434 Incomplete 1871-72.
South Arcot	1,15,000	1,13,224	53,480	6,000	5,770	1,410	
Salem	53,000	70,826	42,363	2,000	1,619	7,987	+ 1,65,299 \$ 5,033 Total.
Tanjore	1,55,000	1,54,852	73,615	10,000	9,696	658	† Rspees 20 have been since recovered in the accounts.
Trichinopoly	81,000	56,034	23,765	3,000	2,416	1,669	Application for transfer to Coimbatore District has been submitted to Government.
Coimbatore	60,000	59,474	44,619	2,500	2,248	1,110	
Malabar	1,100	1,100	472	500		2,483	
Madura	50,000	40,951	14,763	3,000	3,000		
Tinnevely	71,400	76,563	46,376	7,500	7,125		

For St. George,
15th November 1872.

(Signed) R. F. OAKES, Major, R. E.,
Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

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16th December 1872.

No. 313. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1872, No. 2,972.

ACCOUNT, No. 26.

THE Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the actual outlay on Agricultural Repairs and Minor New

Works for the first half of the current official year will be communicated to all District Engineers.

2. In various Orders, the last as recent as the 23rd November, every call upon the Government has been responded to by grants to the full amounts required; and it rests with Executive Officers to make the most of the ample funds supplied them, taking care at the same time to utilize them methodically and to the best purpose; discriminating, therefore, as to the comparative urgency of the requisitions made on them either by the ryots direct or through the Revenue authorities. It will be one of the chief duties of District Engineers in taking up their new appointments to systematize and regulate the work of Agricultural Repairs and Improvements.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that the system hitherto in force of distributing the entire Agricultural allotment between the various districts, at the commencement of the official year, has not worked well. The months of April and May especially, during which many works of the preceding official year ought to be completed and paid up in full, would appear to have been lost by suspension of work and payments in consequence of local maladministration by Superintending Engineers or misunderstanding of departmental orders by Executive Subordinates.

4. It should be generally understood and acted on that the fact of the official year closing on the 30th March does not in the slightest degree affect works of any kind already in progress and for which funds have been more or less fully appropriated. Such works have, in fact, prior claims to be provided with funds for their completion or further progress in the ensuing year, and that such funds will be provided should be taken for granted by all Executive Agents. It will not be necessary, however, to place at the disposal of District Engineers on the 1st April more than the sums named in the accompanying list, representing roughly three months' average outlay of each district on Agricultural Repairs according to the current year's allotments. The remainder of the grant will be at the disposal of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, at the rate of one lakh monthly, and will be allotted by him from time to time to the different districts according to their necessities and capabilities of utilizing the money, which he will ascertain in direct communication with District Engineers. These latter, having their wants for April and May provided for to start with, will keep him informed of the nature and amount of the demands which they ought to meet. They will not indiscriminately ask for funds for all estimates sanctioned, but not acted on, in the previous year, but cause such as may require them to be revised. They should not make calls on account of works which the Executive Officers are not prepared to take in hand within a reasonable period, and in case of works which are likely to occupy more than the current season they should, when sanctioning them, distinctly notify the allotments

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respectively required for it and for the ensuing year. Most large estimates sent in after the close of the north-east monsoon, in November, will come under this ruling.

IST.					RS.
Ganjam	...	...	...	...	7,500
Vizagapatam	...	...	...	...	4,500
Godavery	...	...	...	...	40,000
Kistna	...	...	...	...	20,000
Nellore	...	...	...	...	20,000
Cuddapah	...	...	...	...	15,000
Kurnool	...	...	...	...	6,000
Bellary	...	...	...	...	12,000
Presidency	...	...	...	...	1,000
Chingleput	...	...	...	...	30,000
North Arcot	...	...	...	...	30,000
South Arcot	...	...	...	...	30,000
Salem	...	...	...	...	12,000
Tanjore	...	...	...	...	40,000
Trichinopoly	...	...	...	...	20,000
Coimbatore	...	...	...	...	20,000
Malabar	...	...	...	...	1,000
Madura	...	...	...	...	12,000
Tinnevely	...	...	...	...	20,000
Total...					3,41,000

(True Extract.)

 Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineers.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Revenue Dept.

Revenue Department
N. 4047.

Govt. of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEERS,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated December, 16th.

Recd. a 20th Encl.

G. O. 16th December 1872, No. 2,972.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 311-313

Outlay on Agricultural Repairs and
Minor New Works.—Passing orders on the
Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation
on the actual outlay on Agricultural
Repairs and Minor New Works for the
first half of the current official year.

Comd. to the
Board of Revenue &c.
6-2-77

14. To the Board of Revenue &c. &c.