M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 6

(2) Date of repair 19.9.68.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2200 Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 16.10.1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 29th September 1875.

N. 1147. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ootacamund, 23rd September 1875, No. 1,097.

From Lieutenant D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, R.E., Executive Engineer in charge Kistna District, to Major J. O. HASTED, R.E., Officiating Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Masulipatam, 14th June 1875, No. 27.

I HAVE the honor to annex a list of Irrigation works in Kistna Delta damaged by Kistna floods of September 1874, the cost of repairs to be done this year amounting to Rupees 51,594. This amount will, therefore, absorb nearly two-fifths of the budget grant (1,30,000 Rupees) and the balance will undoubtedly be found inadequate for the execution of ordinary repairs of the delta, for which, sums marginally noted were spent during the last two years, and similar expenditure is anticipated this year also for the upkeep of Agricultural works for the protection of revenue. I therefore request you will be so good as to arrange for an additional allotment (say, 40,000 Rupees at least) being granted to this District.

	Allotment.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1873-74	1,03,000	1,58,654
1874-75	1,59,600	1,51,689

List of Irrigation Works suffered from Kistna Flood of September 1874.

Range.	Name of Work.	Amount of Estimate.	Balance to be worked out this year, 1875-76.	Remarks.
		Rs.	Rs.	
1st Range ...	Closing breaches of river embankment between Vullabhapuram and Seetansgaram.	2,845	324	
	Closing breaches of western bank channel from Vallabhapuram to Kolloor.	13,450	5,382	
	Closing breaches of western bank channel from Kolloor to Terminus.	5,890	2,079	
	Closing breaches of Thellavagu channel ...	2,000	1,805	
	Do. of Eskapully do. ...	3,120	277	
	Strengthening banks of western bank channel from Kolloor.	5,505	5,505	The banks were considerably weakened by floods.
	Clearing and closing breaches of Nizampatam canal.	13,650	13,650	The silt was deposited when breaches occurred.
			28,888	
2nd Range ...	Filling breaches of Commamore channel ...	1,565	1,048	
7th Range ...	Closing breaches of Kistna river embankment at Royoor and Vulloorpollem.	826	461	
	Closing breaches near Kottapollem	305	58	
	Do. Islands of Divi	517	100	
	Do. of west side channel caused by heavy floods.	2,690	2,574	
	Repairing banks of Bunder canal destroyed by heavy freshes from Kunkepad lock to Tidal lock.	8,100	3,475	
	Closing breaches and repairing east river bank between Davarapully and Kullapully.	16,940	7,192	
	Repairing existing river embankment in Divi Islands.	8,870	7,794	
			21,654	
	Grand Total ...	...	51,594	

(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Lieutenant, R.E.,
Executive Engineer in charge Kistna District.

From Lieutenant D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, R.E., Executive Engineer in charge, Kistna District, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Masulipatam, 16th September 1875, No. 70.

I HAVE the honor to forward the following report on the damage done to Irrigation works in this district by the freshes in the end of July and beginning of August last.

2. The river began to rise on the 21st July, and by the 27th had reached the height of 36 feet or 16 feet on the anicut, and caused a considerable amount of damage to the river bank. It then began to subside, and the danger was over; but on the 31st it rose again, and on the 1st August stood at 36 feet 9 inches, which is, I believe, within 4 inches of the highest fresh known subsequent to 1853, except that of last year, and the duration of the fresh exceeded that of any yet registered—for nine days, there was over 15 feet on the anicut.

3. The damage done in the Eastern Delta is trifling, and consists of three large breaches in the river bank and numerous small ones in Divi, all of which can be repaired for the sum of Rupees 3,000. In the Western Delta the floods were much more severely felt; the water burst through the bank in force and spreading across country breached the Nizampatam canal and many minor channels; the large breach which occurred last year at Munangy, and which had been closed at considerable expense, was in great danger of going, and was only saved by the activity of Mr. D. Carlier, the Sub-Engineer in charge of the 1st Range, and Delta Superintendent Ramdoss Naidu. Had the bank gone at this place, the consequences would have been most disastrous; the whole delta would have been inundated, and many villages swept away. The following shows the damage done and the sums required for repairs:—

	Number of Breaches.	Sums required for Repairs.
		Rs.
Nizampatam canal	10	2,275
East side channel	2	165
Western bank channel	29	3,355
Iskapilly channel	4	995
Vamavaram channel	6	195
Vallatur channel	14	300
River bank	9	890
Nadevada tank	2	245
	76	8,420
For Eastern Delta		3,000
		Total ... 11,420

In no case in either delta did the water overtop the river bank; all the breaches were caused by rat-holes and cracks; the result by the long continuance of hot and dry weather, and the fresh coming before the banks had got puddled by the rain. In Divi, as in last year, nearly all the damage occurred round the ends of the shift sluices. All the breaches in Irrigation channels were closed immediately where this could be done easily, and in other places they were ring-bunded, so that water might be let into the channels at once; the breaches in the river banks are being closed. The damage done to crops is very slight; some seed beds have been destroyed in the Repally taluq and Divi, and that is all. The money already applied for for Agricultural repairs in excess of the year's allotment to restore the works damaged in last year is Rs. 40,000 out of balance of estimate Rupees 51,594; but up to date only Rupees 10,000 were granted, and the balance still due is Rupees 30,000, and I now request that, if possible, you will grant a further sum of Rupees 10,000 to repair the damage done this year.

Vide my letter, No. 7, of 14th June 1875.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

The river embankment in the Eastern Delta protects principally Zemindari lands.

2. The whole of the damage sustained in the Western Delta was due, it will be seen, to the failure of the head bank, which is in connection with the bank canal. The completion estimate for this canal, which has already been approved* by Government, but the sanction of which has, together with other estimates for this delta, been deferred† by the Government of India, provides for raising and strengthening this embankment throughout; and until this be done, the delta will continue to be liable to inundation, though a good deal may be done to reduce the risk of breaches by a careful inspection of the bank in June every year before the time of the freshes, and by filling up cracks, digging out and making good rat-holes, &c. The Superintending Engineer should arrange for this being done in future, for, though it may not be practicable to ensure the remedy of every defect, doubtless many breaches may be prevented, while on the recurrence of considerable freshes rising above ground level, the conservancy establishment and gangs of coolies should be told off to watch every part of the banks, and to make good such defects as may then become apparent.

* G. O., No. 3,572, dated 19th December 1874.

† Proceedings Madras Government, No. 1,238, dated 10th May 1875.

3. With reference to the intimation that additional funds will be necessary for the repair of damage, it has to be noticed that in a Memorandum, dated 10th June last, No. 626, it was pointed out that it is necessary to determine the proper expenditure on Agricultural repairs in this delta, so that normal may be distinguished from abnormal outlay and duly recorded, and in granting an allotment of funds on the 26th July last to the extent of Rupees 10,000 more than the Budget grant of Rupees 1,30,000, No. 871. attention was called again to this subject, but as yet no information has been furnished. The repair of the damage sustained should, in the Western Delta, be carried out on emergency, while in the Eastern Delta outlay should be confined to such work as may be necessary for the protection of Government interests, unless the Zemindars are prepared to find funds for the protection of their own estates, it being apparently tolerably certain that they will do nothing in this direction if the work be carried out in the first instance at the public expense.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 648. ORDER THEREON, 29th September 1875, No. 2,809.

IRRIGATION, No. 58.

RECORDED with the remark that the precautionary measures referred to in the 2nd paragraph of the foregoing endorsement should be carefully attended to for the future. The Superintending Engineer

should inform the Collector what part of the repairs of the flood bank of the Eastern Delta should be provided for by the Zemindars interested, and he will confine outlay to such work as is needed for the protection of Government interests, unless he be placed in funds by the Zemindars, through the Collector, for the remainder of the repairs.

2. The favorable report given by Lieutenant Campbell of the exertions of Mr. Sub-Engineer Carlier, and Delta Superintendent K. Ramdoss Naidu, in preventing damage to the Nizampatam canal, is noticed with satisfaction.

(True Extract)

Major-General R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Kistna.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Rev. 15/5 - 3 ff

No 2679

Govt of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

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To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
KISTNA.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated September 29th.

Noted

Rec'd Oct 14 75 Encl.

G. O., 29th September 1876, No. 2,809.

Ex Mis

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 647-648

Damages done to Irrigation Works by the Kistna freshes of July and August 1875.—Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation submitting letter from the District Engineer, Kistna, reporting on the —, recorded with remarks.

No 2205
Comm'd to the
Board of Revenue
16 Oct 75.

14 L 13 Pollam Oct 23/10