M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-3-05.

(1) Number of Pages 6

(2) Date of repair 22-12-05

(3) Initials of the Referencer

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2300 Press

~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 27-10-1875 196 .

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,*
*12th October* 1875.

No. 180. Read the following endorsement of the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department, dated Ootacamund, 16th September 1875, No. 473:—

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th August 1875, No. 2,405.

From J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, Nilgiris, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 17th June 1875, No. 20.

I HAVE the honor to submit a letter to the Nilgiri Local Fund Board from the District Engineer reporting that the Kotagherry Ghaut is now open for traffic, but that it has cost 25 per cent., or Rupees 11,720, in excess of the estimate, and an allotment of the money is required. I enclose the revised estimate.

2. The District Engineer assigns the following reasons for the extra expenditure:—

(1), that part of the work was scamped and had to be done over again, owing to his not being allowed a separate establishment to supervise;

(2), that the want of proper supervision led to a greater expenditure in blasting than would otherwise have been sufficient;

(3), that the execution of the earthwork exceeded the estimate, owing to the earth proving harder to dig than could have been anticipated;

(4), that more rock was encountered than was foreseen.

3. The District Engineer explains that he incurred the extra expenditure on his own responsibility and without sanction believing it his duty to carry on the work to a conclusion, as the Government in G. O., Financial Department, dated 15th May 1874, No. 840, expressed themselves as attaching great importance to the completion of the ghaut "within the current year."

4. The Local Fund Board, at a meeting held on the 31st May 1875, passed the following Resolution upon the letter:—

"Read letter from the District Engineer, dated the 24th May 1875, No. 118, submitting original and revised estimates for the excess expenditure on the Kotagherry new ghaut amounting to twenty-five per cent. over the estimated cost.

"The President will address Government on the subject, and will point out that the Board cannot hold themselves responsible for the excess expenditure incurred, inasmuch as the Government by G. O., No. 840, dated 15th May 1874, took the ghaut out of the Board's hands. In forwarding the explanation the President will point out that, notwithstanding the excess of the expenditure over the estimate, the execution of the work compares favorably with the execution of other ghaut works in the district, having been only twenty-five per cent. in excess of the estimate, whereas the excess over estimate on the Coonoor Ghaut was 100 per cent. and twenty-five per cent. on the Gudalore Ghaut exclusive of the value of the ghaut services, whose work was estimated at worth Rupees 10,000. The cost per mile of the Kotagherry Ghaut is less than that of a similar ghaut on the Anamullays."

5. The Local Fund Board consider that the execution of the ghaut has been satisfactory, and they trust that the Government may be pleased to supply the funds now required.

From Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., Executive Engineer, Nilgiris, to J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, Nilgiris, dated Ootacamund, 24th May 1875,
No. 113.

I have the honor to report that the new Kotagherry Ghaut is now completed and open for traffic, but I very much regret being obliged at the same time to forward a revised estimate for the work, amounting for Rupees 69,000, nearly 26 per cent. in excess of the former sanctioned estimate, which was Rupees 47,280 (Rupees 44,930 sanctioned in Financial G. O., No. 3691, of the 1st May 1872, and Rupees 2,400 in Public Works G.O., No. 113, of the 15th July 1874). The excess amounts to Rupees 11,720. Of this Rupees 6,684 were expended in 1874-75 and Rupees 5,036 are needed in 1875-76.

2. In Financial G. O., No. 840, of the 17th of May 1871, paragraph 2, Government are pleased to say that "they attach great importance to the completion of the Kotagherry Ghaut within the current official year," and the Local Fund Board in No. 21 of their Proceedings, dated 29th July 1871, observe that "in their opinion it is much more conducive to the interests of the district that these works should be finished before a new work is commenced." I beg also to state that the Kotagherry Ghaut has had to be carried out under the superintendence of the Wellington Overseer. Preparations have been in hand for some few months relating to the unfinished Wellington Barrack block, which was to have been actively pushed on at the beginning of the current official year. It was therefore very important that the Kotagherry Ghaut should be completed before the new Barrack was actually taken in hand, so as to allow of the Overseer being called upon to superintend only one work at a time. Had the completion of the Kotagherry Ghaut been delayed a month or two, these works would have had to be carried out at the same time that the Wellington Barrack was in hand. It would have been impossible for me with only one Overseer to undertake the two works together, and I was informed by higher authority and new Government Order, that any extra establishment was out of the question.

3. For the above reasons I have never taken upon myself to bring the Kotagherry Ghaut to completion and to draw upon unauthorized expenditure, for this, under the circumstances, I have the authority of the Board and of Government.

4. Before proceeding to explain the causes of the excess in the estimate, I beg to lay before you shortly the exceptional and difficult circumstances under which the work has been carried out.

Two other ghauts, nature of which is similar to the Kotagherry Ghaut, have been constructed in this district. I allude to the Coonoor Ghaut and to the Gooddaloor Ghaut. The construction of the former (eleven miles long) in general charge, Major Law, was resident at Coonoor to attend to the work only. The latter ghaut (nine miles long) had at one time three Overseers, and he had the advantage of the supervision of the Superintending Engineer who frequently resided at Coonoor.

In addition to the Kotagherry Ghaut, one mile long, a special resident Overseer was in charge, whose time was fully occupied in taking measurements and in making payments, &c.

For nine years a gang of sixty coolies were employed on this ghaut free of charge, except for occasional guards. The value of their labour would be nearly Rupees 10,000.

I beg to be excused for entering into these details, but I wish to explain why I have not been able to adhere more closely to the estimate. I will endeavour briefly to explain the difficulties which I have had to contend against, and to show that the excess in the estimate is unavoidable.

I may here state that the Kotagherry Ghaut, as originally opened, was a bridle path in the Coimbatore District to Kotagherry Choultry, which was made by Mr. Farewell, the then Superintending Engineer for Forts and Roads. The Government of the Nilgiris, on the Collector of Coimbatore's application, agreed to have it for a length of 6½ miles. It occupied from six years' Government labour. A Assistant Engineer and two Overseers. An Overseer experienced in the above kind of work, was specially appointed for the Kotagherry Ghaut Road, and has since been retained on the ghaut (nine miles long). The Cantonment Overseer at Wellington has had to trace, survey, and construct this ghaut. It has been a severe labour to him, and his unavoidable absences on this duty every other week from the Cantonment have been complained of by the authorities there.

4. The excess over the original estimate amounts to Rupees 11,720. This is made up of the following items:—

| | | Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Unexpected rock encountered where it was not anticipated ... | 7,218 |
| 2. | The earth-cutting in parts proving harder than was expected ... | 1,271 |
| 3. | The cost of rebuilding certain retaining walls which failed ... | 2,113 |
| 4. | Additional first-class drains erected ... ... ... ... ... | 1,118 |
| | Total ... | 11,720 |

The first increase has occurred entirely between the fifth and eleventh miles of the ghaut, reckoning from Kotagherry. In this portion rock of a very hard description was unexpectedly encountered.

This increase might have been somewhat reduced by the building of additional walls in the place of blasting if only stone-builders in sufficient numbers to work constantly could have been procured. But the walls which were erected were built with very great difficulty and with repeatedly vexatious delays. Had a larger number of retaining walls been constructed the completion of the ghaut would have been retarded at least a whole year.

The third item is, of course, one which has caused me considerable concern. The walls which failed were three in number, of which only one was large. They were built by Mr. Power, the late Overseer, at a time when he was engaged on the surveys for the Coonoor water-supply and drainage. At that time he was also suffering from debility and sore-eyes. The foundations for the walls were well selected, but they were not correctly built throughout, and their sections were made slighter than ordered by me. One of the bridges and one of the drains were undermined by the flow of water and needed strengthening. One hundred and eleven retaining walls will have been built on this ghaut, so that the percentage of failure is only three. The other items, I trust, need no remark.

5. I may here be permitted to mention that the new Coonoor Ghaut was completed at a cost exceeding its first sanctioned estimate by 50 per cent.; another 40 per cent. was expended on it, and Rupees 1,500 per mile were expended on it afterwards to bring its condition up to what it ought to be. It thus exceeded its original estimate by 100 per cent. The Gooddaloor Ghaut exceeded its estimate by twenty-five per cent.

The new Kotagherry Ghaut has been opened out to a width of nowhere less than eight feet, at least six feet having been cut out of the solid. It is eighteen miles long, has five bridges—three of twenty feet and two of fifteen feet span—and 132 culverts or drains. Where retaining walls have been built it is twelve feet wide inside the parapet. It has four quarries, and its maximum gradient is 1 in 17.

The Ammoomallay Ghaut, which is stated in the year's Administration Report to be a bridle path to the Coonoor Saddle is only 6½ miles long with average ascent. At the zigzags the roads are made twelve feet wide for some little distance. Across each it is blasted out level width, few yards, and at all under three feet out of the solid ground has been cut. It has cost Rupees 5,400 per mile. The revised estimate of the Kotagherry Ghaut gives a mileage rate of Rupees 3,280. This is one-sixth of the cost of the new Coonoor Ghaut, which is twice as wide, and one-third that of the Gooddaloor Ghaut, which is fully half as wide again.

6. I beg in conclusion to express my sincere regret at the expenditure having exceeded the estimate, but I venture to submit that under all the circumstances explained it could not be avoided.

Enclosure N —Revised Estimate

Enclosure No. Comparative Statement. *

Submitted for the orders of Gove ient.

2. The new Kotagherry Ghat reported to have been completed at a cost of Rupees 59,060, as per revised estimate now submitted. This estimate is in excess of the original one* by Rupees 11,720, and the causes of the excess are fully explained by the District Engineer.

* Amount of estimate, Rupees 47,340, sanctioned in G. O., Financial Department, dated 1st May 1873, No. 606, and G. O., Public Works Department, dated 15th July 1874, No. 113.

3. Of the excess, Rupees 11,720, Rupees 6,684 are stated to have been expended in 1874-75 and Rupees 5,036 as needed in 1875-76.

4. In their Proceedings, dated 18th November 1874, Miscellaneous No. 7,002, the Board requested the sanction of Government for a contribution of Rupees 2,412 from Provincial Funds for the completion of the work, but no order appears to have as yet been passed thereon.

5. The Board resolve to recommend Government to sanction a grant of Rupees 5,036 from Provincial Funds, which sum the District Engineer states is required for 1875-76. It is observed that there is nothing available out of the local Funds of the Circle to meet any portion of the amount applied for.

6. The Board think that, as the fact that the estimate was about to be exceeded must have long been known to the District Engineer, it ought to have been brought to notice earlier.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
*Acting Secretary.*

---

Inspection Office Public Works Department, for disposal with reference to G. O., Financial Department, dated 15th May 1874, No. 840, paragraph 3.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
*Officiating Chief Secretary.*

---

No. 1351. Camp Ootacamund, 12th October 1875, No. 2,014.

CIVIL—WORKS—No. 126.

In paragraph 2 of Financial Department Order, No. 840, of 15th May 1874, it was decided that the balance required to complete certain works alluded to in paragraph 12 of the Revenue Board's Proceedings on which it was based, would be provided from Provincial Funds. The Kotagherry Ghaut, however, was only provided for by the allotment of Rupees 8,000 made in the Provincial Budget of 1874-75, added to the transfer of Rupees 3,850 recommended in Revenue Board's Proceedings of 19th November 1874. The additional sum of Rupees 2,400 asked for by the Board in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings now under Order, No. 3,489, of 12th December 1874 (7th December).

2. Until the present reference was made no demands had been complied with. It was the duty of the District Engineer to include any such for the current year in his statement of surrenders due in its last quarter, and to include demands for the following year in his District Budget due in the previous quarter. He has done neither, but taken upon himself to lay out Rupees 6,896 in excess of his allotments for 1874-75, and to run in debt to the extent of Rupees 5,036 for the current year. His conduct is altogether irregular and constrains the Honorable the Governor in Council to censure Captain Morant. There need be no difficulty in accepting his revised estimate on the score of the out-turn of work being fully worth its cost, and the additional work carried out having been really needed, as it is impossible to estimate with complete accuracy for such work on so long a line of road, and it is accordingly sanctioned. But Captain Morant has erred in judgment in not informing the proper authorities of the liabilities he was incurring, and in assuming a responsibility which is strictly forbidden by the standing orders of the department.

3. The charge of Rupees 5,036 against the grants of the current year will be adjusted by transfer of Rupees 4,000 from item No. 2, and Rupees 1,000 from item No. 3, of the Nilgiri Local Fund Budget, on neither of which it has been ascertained has any expenditure as yet been incurred, there being no Provincial Funds available.

(True Extract.)

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

To the District Engineer, Nilgiris.
„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.
„ Board of Revenue.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Financial do.

Ind. E. C. Ebnaker.
Spare Copies.

Executive 1875 Oct
No 4195

# Govt of [1875] Gujrat.

## PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
NUGGERS.

Dated October 1875.

Sir,

I am directed to forward, for your information, a copy of the undermentioned papers.

G. O., 1st October 1875, No. 2911.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 180-191

Kolaghurry Ghaut, N.E. District.—Passing orders on endorsement of the Executive Engineer transmitting for approval Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on letter of the District Engineer intimating that the lowest Tenders [illegible] are those of the original estimate.

No 2,300

1

27 Oct 1875

1