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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2680	Press.
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Dated	11.5.1877	197 .

812

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1st May 1877, No. 9 W.

Civil Works.

Read the following papers :—

No. 17. From J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, dated Nellore, 6th April 1877, No. 49.

In reference to paragraphs 3 and 4 of my letter No. 205, dated the 16th March, forwarded to you with endorsement No. 206, dated the 12th idem, I have the honor to report that the stock of rice then at Mypanad has been exhausted, and I have had to get 1,000 bags or about 70 tons from the Collector's stock in Nellore for the use of the work-people on the division of the canal south of the Pennair.

2. The stock at Iskapully is going down very fast and will be soon exhausted also, and as the Collector's stock in Nellore will probably be required for the large numbers of people who are reported to be *enroute* from Cuddapah and Bellary, I do not expect any further large supply from this source.

3. I therefore request you will urge the Government to procure rice immediately to be landed at Mypanad, Ramatheertham, Tummalapenta and Karedu as requested in my letter under reference.

4. Several offers have been made by merchants here to supply the required rice; but I have, I believe, no authority to purchase, and I do not think it would be good to accept offers to supply rice made in a casual way.

5. The required quantity will be offered immediately when tenders for the supply are called for in the Fort St. George or District Gazettes, and this will in my opinion be the best way to obtain it.

6. The following quantities are now urgently required at the following points on the coast :—

	TONS.
Mypanad	150
Ramatheertham	200
Tummalapenta	200
Karedu	200

No. 17-A. Telegram from the Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, dated 11th April 1877.

THOUSAND and seven bags purchased by Government for canal and two thousand bags besides available for canal.

No. 17-B. Telegram from the District Engineer of Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, dated 14th April 1877.

PRIVATE trade is supplying markets largely. In some places markets are too far from canal. If there is any difficulty about buying fresh stocks may I distribute stocks on hand and bring down rice from north to south. This will answer present wants.

No. 17-C. Telegram from the District Engineer of Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras, dated 18th April 1877.

GRAIN wanted at Ramatheertham 10 tons; Tummalapenta 200 tons; Chacacherla near Karedu 200 tons.

No. 998.

MEMORANDUM.

THE telegram of the 18th April from the District Engineer, Nellore, has been forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce. The District Engineer will continue to report whether private trade keeps his markets well supplied. He should endeavour to get markets brought nearer to the canal if practicable. If reserves are used up it may be difficult to get traders to bring supplies when prices begin to fall.

19th April 1877.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

No. 17-D. Endorsement of the Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 19th April 1877.

From J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., District Engineer, Nellore, to the Honorable W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, dated Nellore, 10th March 1877, No. 205.

In reference to your memorandum No. 72, dated the 12th January, I have the honor to forward an estimate of the quantity of rice, which I think it will be necessary to import for the use of the people employed on the East Coast Canal until the work is finished.

2. Ramatheertham is now supplied from Iskapully, and Tummalapenta and Karedu are supplied from Ramapatam. Ramatheertham, Tummalapenta and Karedu are difficult of access by land, and private traders are not, owing to the difficulty of moving it inland, importing grain to those places. For the same reason it is difficult and expensive to supply those places from our stores at Iskapully and Ramapatam, and it would be advantageous to have those sub-divisions of the canal supplied direct by sea.

3. There is no difficulty at present in landing grain anywhere along the coast, and imports to the extent of our requirements at Ramatheertham, Tummalapenta and Karedu had better be sent to those places direct, than to the established ports of Iskapully and Ramapatam.

4. Looking forward to the rough weather that may be expected at the change of the monsoon winds in May, I beg to recommend that the quantity required for the canal be purchased and landed as soon as possible. Local merchants would probably import the grain required if tenders were called for in the district as well as in the Port St. George Gazette.

5. I had the honor to inform you in my letter No. 174, dated 17th January last, of the system of paying the coolies on the canal, and I trust it has been approved. I have delayed sending you this estimate in endeavouring to collect reliable information on the subjects of questions 5, 7 and 8 of your memorandum, and I regret to have to report that I have failed to get this information in regard to the district generally, though I applied for it to the Revenue Officers concerned.

6. The Sub-Collector informed me that he had a stock of 535 tons of rice at Kottapatam on the 31st January, but whether that rice was intended for the Kuruool District or for this district I do not know; a small portion of it was said to be available for the canal coolies. In addition to the stock at Kottapatam, there is about 150

tons at Nellore and there are probably a few tons more here and there at other places. I am unable to say what demand there is on Government stock generally in the hands of Revenue Officers. The daily demand on the canal stock is at present about 15 tons.

7. Private trade has been very active, but I believe it is now declining and I do not think it is reliable. The natives have no idea of making anything like a correct forecast; they put on a spurt on occasion, and collapse as suddenly when they think they have ventured too far. This is now, I think, the case in this district. In November and December last there was a scare, Government came to the rescue and threw in supplies at two places on the coast, the people saw how easily the thing could be done and they followed suit largely. There were last month as many as 46 vessels of sizes discharging grain at the same time at the Port of Kottapatam, and dhonies were discharging grain at many of the principal villages along the coast. The sudden influx of such large supplies brought down the prices immediately, and importers seem afraid that they have overdone it.

8. I consider that it is of vital importance to ascertain at once the present state of the trade and of the stocks of grain now in hand. The estimate now submitted will provide only for the requirements of the people working on the canal, and the question of providing for these people when the several sections of the canal are completed should, I think, be considered immediately.

9. The head of every village should I think submit returns at once of the stocks in his village and the quantities expected from the existing small patches of cultivation. The actual stock and expected produce would probably be greater than these returns would show, and it would therefore be safe to calculate upon the returns. It would also be easy to ascertain with sufficient accuracy by reference to known traders, and the arrangements they have made for further imports the quantities that may be expected from this source.

10. By adding existing stock and expected produce and imports and comparing it with the population of the district, we can see at a glance what is likely to happen, how far private trade should be encouraged, and to what extent Government assistance will be necessary.

11. Taking the population of the district at $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions. I think $\frac{3}{4}$ ths or $1\frac{1}{4}$ millions will probably provide for themselves, and that the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a million of people will be absolutely dependent upon Government; 100,000 of these people are now able-bodied and should be employed really on public works under good and systematic supervision; 50,000 are not able-bodied, but they can do something towards working for the cost of their living. These people can be employed in many useful ways, repairing village roads, clearing ponds, &c., under the supervision of Taluq and Village Establishments. There are about 2,000 grouped villages in the district, 50,000 people would give 25 to each village of about 4 square miles each, and I would recommend that these people be employed in their own villages instead of massing them in large bodies. The remaining 100,000 are quite unable to do any work whatever, and are entirely dependent on the charity of Government. If we get the usual floods in June 10,000 able-bodied people would probably be taken away from Public Works for cultivation in the Pennair Delta, and if we get a favorable monsoon in October perhaps 50,000 more would be provided for in a similar way. The remainder will I think have to be provided for by Government in the manner indicated above until the harvest in January 1878.

This is a sad and gloomy forecast of the prospects of this district, but I am afraid it is within the truth of what will actually happen, and I earnestly beg of Government to prepare or to authorize the local officers to prepare for it.

I shall send a copy of this letter to the Collector, his information on all these matters is of course more complete and reliable than mine, and I shall be very glad indeed if he can in the light of his information take a more hopeful view of our prospects than I am at present able to do.

*Estimate of the Quantity of Rice required for Famine Relief on the East Coast Canal from
1st March 1877.*

Divisions.	Sub-divisions.	PEOPLE AND TIME REQUIRED TO COM- PLETE THE WORK.		Rice required at 1 lb. per head per diem.	Quantity of Rice in stock on 1st March 1877.	Quantity likely to be available in Local Markets.	Totals of Columns 5 and 6.	Quantity required to be imported, difference of Columns 4 and 7.	Remarks.
		People.	Time, Months of 30 days.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
No. 1 old Division, E. C. Canal.	Korutur or Mypaud.	8,000	2	TONS. 3.7	TONS. 157	..	157	200	Required before end of March.
	Ramatheertham ..	6,000	2	28	..	..	..	268	Required immediately, in order to relieve the store at Iskapully, from which it is now supplied.
No. 2 Iskapully Division.	Iskapully	6,000	4	5.6	286	..	286	250	Required in April.
	Tummalapenta ..	6,000	4	5.6	..	..	..	536	Two hundred tons required immediately to relieve Ramapatam from which now supplied and to save cost of cartage.
	Ramapatam	10,000	5	1.4	374	250	624	250	Required in April.
	Karedu ..	10,000	5	1.4	..	..	..	874	Two hundred tons required immediately to relieve Ramapatam.
No. 3 Kottapatam Division.	Pakula ..	6,000	4	5.1	300	..	300	236	Required at end of April.
	Etamakkala	6,000	4	5.1	600	472	1,072	..	Markets well supplied locally.
	Kottapatam	6,000	4	5.1	..	..	..	..	
	Kanuparthi ..	6,000	3	4.0	40	360	400	..	
		70,000	34	..	..	..	..	2,614	

NOTE.—The time, column 3, will of course depend on the number of people who may come on the work. The rice estimate will be the same in any case.

NELLORE,

10th March 1877.

(Signed) J. O'SHAUGHNESSY,

District Engineer, Nellore.

From J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Nellore, 16th March 1877, No. 1,085.

WITH reference to the District Engineer's letter to your address No. 205 of the 10th instant, copy of which was forwarded to me by that officer, and to your telegram dated 13th idem, I have the honor to state that the stock of Government rice at the several ports in this district on the 31st January last was as shown below:—

	No. of bags.	
Mypaud ..	3,543	Returns received only up to 31st January 1877.
Ramapatam ..	3,256	
Kottapatam ..	10,161	
Kanuparthi ..	480	
Iskapully ..	8,684	

2. Besides this there is now a stock of Government rice at Nellore consisting of 2,007 bags, which are in the hands of Mr. Tomlinson, Agent to Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., and 5,052 bags of rice, 980 bags of cholam, and 350 bags of paddy in the Collector's Office, which have been purchased for the use of the district relief coolies.

3. As regards private trade, I observe from the port returns that merchants imported by sea during January and February 5,915 tons of rice and 295 tons of dry grains, but I am not in a position to show by figures how far trade continues active this month. According to public opinion in Nellore it is subsiding. I cannot form any estimate either of the grain now in the hands of private traders or of the

quantity imported by them through the canal and by land. No information on these points is available in my office.

4. I do not know what Mr. O'Shaughnessy's estimate of the quantity of grain required for the canal may be, but I agree with him that a sufficient quantity ought to be thrown into the district before the south-west monsoon commences, and calling for tenders as he proposes will have a good effect in every way.

I have no information as to how much of the 535 tons of rice alluded to in paragraph 6 of Mr. O'Shaughnessy's letter is intended for this district.

The returns alluded to in paragraph 7 will be very unreliable, but they shall be called for.

I hope that Mr. O'Shaughnessy's recast is too gloomy, but I do not know enough of the district yet to enable me to contest it authoritatively, nor can I find sufficient data collected in my office to warrant a settled opinion.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department for disposal.

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secy. to Govt.

No. 18.

ORDER THEREON, 1st May 1877, No. 9 W.

THE Government do not understand Mr. O'Shaughnessy's request for supply of grain by Government when he is not paying grain wages, has considerable stocks in hand, and admits that private trade freely supplying the market, although at first in some cases not in the immediate vicinity of the canal works.

2. The District Engineer will supply the requirements of the works widely, and consult the Collector as to the steps necessary to induce establishment of camp bazaars. The amount of grain in his hands and Collector's seems to be ample to avert risk of disaster by sudden failure of supply, and the Chamber of Commerce has been advised of the demand.

3. Mr. O'Shaughnessy will also report jointly with the Collector as to the stocks and demands, and why private trade should not be relied on.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Nellore.
" Collector, do
" Revenue Department.
" Chamber of Commerce.

Exd. E. C. Shunker

4 Spare Copies

Rev. 1877 Sept
7th 3383

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Govt. of 1873 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The DISTRICT ENGINEER,

MELLORE.

Secy. Engr. &c.

Dated May 1st.

Issued

Recd. 9/5/77

Encl.

G.O., 1st May 1877, No. 9 W.

W.A.L.

Nos. 17-18.

26 86

Command to the Board of Revenue

Madras District

11 May/77

East Coast Canal, Mellore District
Orders on the subject of the supply of food
to coolies employed on the

7th 3383 and 9/19 May