

(1) Number of pages 6.
(2) Date of repair 16. 10. 82
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	338	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	2. 2	1972

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

24th January 1878, No. 66 I.

In.

Read the following paper:—

No. 67. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp, Kistna, Ellore Canal, 17th December 1877, No. 287 I.
From Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., District Engineer, North Arcot, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Vellore, 8th December 1877, No. 3,334.

WITH reference to your memorandum No. 50 N.A., dated 15th October 1877, I have the honor to report that the following tanks have been breached, for which estimates for thorough repair were lately sanctioned.

2. Thorinjeecoopum Chittairy and Kavasael tanks of the group of Mahathavimungalum large tank. Breaches took place in the bunds of these tanks, but to no great extent. Emergent estimates of Rupees 283 and Rupees 80 were furnished for closing the breaches, and orders were given to have the work carried out at once. The repairs on the estimates sanctioned in G.O., No. 329 I, dated 20th September 1877, had not been begun, and the tank bunds in their weakened condition could not stand the sudden influx of water from the adjacent hills.

3. The Athoovambody tank is one of the same group, the repairs sanctioned had not been begun; on the night of the 23rd September the tank was suddenly filled, and the water running out at the cuts at both ends of the bund. At this time the Thorinjeecoopum large tank breached just above, and a portion of the flood thus let loose caused the Athoovambody tank bund to give way in two places. Orders were given for the immediate closing of the breaches, and an emergent estimate of Rupees 450 was prepared. The bund of the tank was very much out of order, and an estimate of Rupees 920 was sanctioned for its restoration. The work of closing the breaches was injured as soon as it was begun; but the revenue dependent on the tank is considerable, viz., about Rupees 800, and again when the work was considerably advanced a return of heavy rain brought in so much water that the large breach was opened out again and extended. It was therefore necessary to begin a second time to close the breach, and the estimate for this work amounts to Rupees 410.

4. The Commanandel tank is likewise in the Mahathavimungalum group, and the work sanctioned in the same G.O., No. 329, had not been begun when the tank breached under the heavy rains, and emergent repairs were put in hand for which the estimate comes to Rupees 30.

5. A trifling breach occurred in the terminal tank of the group of the Mahathavimungalum, but this can be dealt with without a separate estimate.

6. The Thorinjeecoopum large tank is very badly breached, a sluice being also carried away. The water did not rise to the top of the bund, but there must have been some interior weakness in the bund. This tank was repaired ten years ago at a cost of over Rupees 5,500, it is estimated approximately that Rupees 1,700 will be required to repair it now, and the cultivated area is only 82 acres. I am therefore in correspondence with the Collector on the question of abandoning the tank as an irrigation work.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government in continuation of the papers recorded in Proceedings Madras Government, No. 446 I, of the 1st November 1877.

2. These accidents are strong evidence of the financial necessity for making tanks safe.

3. It will be seen that estimates for putting the breached tanks in good order were sanctioned in G.O., No. 323 I, 20th September last, but had not been carried out.

4. The work provided for was,	
Thorinjeeooppum small tank—	RS.
Additional waste weir 75 feet ...	200
Repairs ...	295
Total ...	495

The estimated cost of repairing damage is ... 283

The old escape of the tank was 20 feet in length.

Kalvasel Tank—	
Additional waste weir 75 feet ...	325
Repairs ...	742
Total ...	1,067

Estimated cost of repairing damage ... 80

The old escape of the tank was 30 feet long.

Athoovambody Tank—	
Additional weir 100 feet ...	230
(Old weir 30 feet)	
Repairs ...	920
Total ...	1,150

The estimated cost of repairing damage ... 860

Commanandel Tank—	
Additional escape 50 feet ...	135
(Old escape 11 feet)	
Repairs ...	270
Total ...	405

Estimated cost of repairing damage ... 30

5. The total provision for additional means of disposing of surplus was ... 890

The cost of repairing damage due to want of proper surplus works is ... 1,253

6. Probably an amount corresponding to the cost of repairs in the four cases above referred to, and the loss of revenue, would have sufficed to place the tanks in complete order, whereas now the loss has been sustained, and the tanks have still to be made safe and efficient.

7. When the estimates were sanctioned it was no doubt too late to carry out the repairs and improvements before the monsoon rains set in, and North Arcot has done its best to do what could be done with the means available. Had however the Minor New Works Grant been increased two and a half years ago much more would have been done. It has already been pointed out that, given the increased means which have been asked for, it will take many years before the tanks of this Presidency generally will be fit to sustain without serious risk of damage the effects of heavy rainfall.

8. The last tank referred to by the District Engineer, the Thorinjeeooppum large tank, was repaired ten years ago when the proper treatment of tanks had not been investigated and enforced, and the case indicates that mere repairs alone will not meet the requirements or prevent loss.

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

To the Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

No. 68. ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1878, No. 66 I.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council not doubt that it will be in every respect advantageous to proceed more rapidly than hitherto with the provision of adequate means of escape for surplus water. It is desirable that a complete statement of the accidents of the season and the cost of repairing damage of each tank be compiled, to which should be added the revenue under the tank, and the date of formation of tank as far as known and by what Department constructed; subsequently an account of the loss of revenue in each case sustained.

(True Extract.)

Ellington
Major, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.
" Collector of North Arcot.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Board of Revenue.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

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Revenue Dept
No 516.
IRRIGATION.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

✓
THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
NORTH ARCOT.
&c. &c. &c.

Dated January 24th.

Issued

Recd. *6 February*, Encl.

G. O., 24th January 1878, No. 66 L.

JANUARY.
Nos 67-68.

Breaching of Tanks in the North Arcot
District.—Orders on papers reporting the
—by the late heavy rain fall.
N 338

Lodged *11/11*