Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 1072 D.

DATED 18 December

[Despatch Abstract.]

Flood damages: Note of the Chief Engineer of Irrigation on the — in the Sonmiani Kumtam ancient System caused by the heavy rains in November recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

IRRIGATION.
ACCOUNT.

Government {1896} of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd. } 1896. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 1072 I., 18th December 1896.

DECEMBER.

Flood Damages

Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the — in the Srivaikuntam anicut system caused by the heavy rains in November, recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.
Account.

READ—the following papers :—

From Mr. P. WHITBREAD, Sub-Divisional Officer, Srívaikuntam, to the Executive Engineer, Tinnevelly Division, dated Tuticorin, 20th November 1896, No. E.

I have the honour to report the damages caused by the cyclone of the 14th instant, as seen by myself and as reported to me.

Korampallam tank.—In Uppar odai dam, seven vents have been washed away in the centre of the dam and two others much damaged. The water in the tank rose to 9·2 feet on the floor of the freshwater channel head sluice on the 14th instant evening.

Freshwater channel.—Owing to the byewash of the Korampallam tank having been opened to save the tank from breaching, the water passing through it overtopped the banks of this channel and breached them in several places within a mile from its head.

Regarding these damages, I got information for the first time at 7–30 P.M. on the 15th instant and was on the spot on the 16th evening.

On the 17th, I arranged and started closing the leading channel to the Korampallam tank and to retain the remaining water in it. Much of the cross bund was finished that day, but it was washed away by another fresh down the odai by the rainfall of that night. On this date the Revenue Inspector, karnam of Korampallam, another village munsif and two peons from the Tahsildar gave some help to collect coolies. On the 18th, I re-started the cross bund and finished it by the evening. This day none of those who helped me on the previous day to collect coolies turned up, although I requested the Revenue Inspector that the karnam, village munsif and peons should be ordered to be present, as coolies in these parts were difficult to be collected. I had consequently to start work at 10 A.M. and not before. Another fall of rain on the evening of the 18th instant along the course of the odai brought down another fresh and carried away 15 feet in length of cross bund. On the morning of the 19th instant, I inspected the bund and seeing its state and the water being lost, I ordered the Superintendent, North Main channel, to write a Tamil letter to the karnam of Korampallam requesting his attendance to help to collect coolies, and he replied to say that he would collect the necessary coolies the next day. I have, however, collected coolies without his help and made safe the cross bund and stored 4·75 feet water this day, against 5 feet on the 16th instant.

Freshwater channel.—I have started closing these breaches from the 19th instant with coolies obtained from Eral and hope to close them within three days.

The Puckle's drain.—This also breached near the 4th mile stone of the Tuticorin-Pudukkóttai road, and I have arranged to close also the breach in the same.

On the 13th instant when I was at Srívaikuntam, I observed the weather to be suspicious from 3 P.M. of that date. I at once opened fifteen sand vents of the Srívaikuntam anicut and closed the North and South Main channel head sluices. There was then about one foot depth of water in the river. The rain was continuous all night and next day, 14th instant; it blew very strong from north-east or thereabouts, and was dissolving the new bank of the closed breaches near the Srívaikuntam town.

This I observed at 6–30 A.M. and immediately went to the Post office to inquire by wire if there was any flood at Tinnevelly, but I was told that telegraphic communication ceased since the 13th instant. After this I went over to the house of the Tahsildar and made arrangements with that officer to collect coolies to put the new bank dissolving all night and make it safe. After much trouble we arranged to collect a few coolies and make the weakest portion safe by mid-day. The wind abated in violence by 11 A.M. I obtained more coolies and made the remaining weak portions of the new bank at Srívaikuntam safe, against 17 feet flood by evening. On the next day (15th) I made it still more safe.

Srívaikuntam Periyakulam.—The new banks at breaches settled a little, but they were safe. The tank received much of the drainage down the Kilakal channel. This channel I inspected on the 15th instant and saw the bank between Manakarai and Álwárkarkulam being overtopped, and made a small cut at a safe place and thus relieved the channel.

The water down the Kilakal channel was drainage water only as the head sluice was closed.

The strong wind that prevailed blew down many trees both in the town and along the roads. One palmyra tree fell on the top of one of the out-houses of the present rest-house at Puthukudi and damaged the roof. The rest-house at Poriur was saved by the Sub-Collector, who happened to camp in it, tying down a tree in the act of falling on the building.

New north flood bank below Srivaikuntam anicut.—All the breaches have settled a little but they are perfectly safe. At the 3½ mile, the Muhammadans living at Thoppur were seen cutting the bank and prevented by the villagers living on the opposite side from doing it. I was not able to find out the names of the men who tried to do this mischief.

North Main channel.—Except a few high level breaches in the 11th and 12th miles, there are no other damages to the channel banks. The Chettikulam, I hear, has breached.

The south section overseer reports that, owing to the Seidukuvoitan villagers not vacating their houses to admit of the formation of the diversion bank to connect both ends, the fresh in the river rose high and passed through the east end of this village and carried away 340 feet in length of the newly-formed river bank on the east side of the village, besides re-opening the breaches in the Athur channel at the end of the Seidukuvoitan tank. I will inspect these works very soon and make further report. The cost of re-closing these breaches will be much, as good earth is not obtainable in any place close by, but it will have to be brought from a very great distance.

The overseer, south section, further reports that the following tanks have also breached :—

(1) Kánamkulam tank.	(3) Ávudiarkulam tank.
(2) Thulukenkulam tank.	(4) Árumuganeri tank.

I have requested the Sub-Collector to issue orders to the village authorities to throw in ring bunds in front of breaches. I will inspect these breaches also very shortly and make a further report.

Telegram from the Superintending Engineer, dated 14th, I received on the 17th instant.

Telegram from the Executive Engineer, dated 14th, I received on the 19th instant.

No. 5056.

Submitted to the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, for information.

(Signed) A. JOYCE,
Executive Engineer.

30th November 1896.

No. 1332 T.N.

Copy submitted to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in continuation of this office No. 1272 T.N., dated 16th November 1896.

TRICHINOPOLY, 4th December 1896. (Signed) O. V. BODDY, Lieut.-Col., R.E., Supg. Engineer, VI Circle.

No. 236 I.

Submitted to His Excellency the Governor for information. The destruction of seven vents (out of 24) of the surplus sluice of the Korampallam tank from which Tuticorin is supplied, is a very serious matter and appears inexplicable except on the supposition that the shutters which are held by catches were not released at the proper time. The Superintending Engineer will be ordered to hold an enquiry. Owing to the exertions of the Sub-division officer, enough water has been saved to supply Tuticorin nearly to the time the supply usually fails.

2. The estimate for closing the large breach which occurred at Srívaikuntam in December last, provides for revetting the bank, but this had evidently not been done. Fortunately there was not a heavy flood in the river.

3. The north flood bank below Srívaikuntam anicut is liable to be cut until the villages between it and the river are removed. This has been recommended by the Public Works Department, but appears to be still under the consideration of the Revenue Department.

4. Owing to financial difficulties, the diversion of the right flood bank below Srívaikuntam anicut in the 10th mile was not put in hand in good time and difficulties in acquiring the site seem to have caused further delay. The river flood was not high, else the damage could have been very extensive.

5. The breached tanks are small ones connected with the Srívaikuntam anicut system. The bunds are of very bad material, but cannot be protected except at prohibitive cost.

10th December 1896. (Signed) W. HUGHES, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

ORDER—No. 1072 I., dated 18th December 1896.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUGHES, Joint Secy. to Government, Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

Ed. C. Rajagopaul.

Public Works (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 11462

Order

No 236 I. dt 10-12-96

Submitted to His Excellency the Governor for information. The destruction of 7 vents (out of 24) of the surplus sluice of the Korampallam Tank, from which Tuticorin is supplied, is a very serious matter and appears inexplicable except on the supposition that the shutters which are held by catches were not released at the proper time. The Supt. Engr. will be ordered to hold an enquiry. Owing to the exertions of the Sub. Officer enough water has been saved to supply Tuticorin nearly to the time the supply usually fails.

2. The estimate for closing the large breach which occurred at Srivaikuntam in Dec. last provides for revetting the bank but this had evidently not been done. Fortunately there was not a heavy flood in the river.

3. The North Flood Bank below Srivaikuntam Anicut is liable

From The Supt. Engineer Madura.

No. 1332 T.N.

Dated 4th December 1896.

Received 5-12-96

Enclosures 17.12.96

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Floods of Nov/96:—
submits copy of report from the Sub-Divl. Officer Srivaikuntham reporting on the damages caused by the breach to Koppar oolai Dam, Korampallam Tank &c.—

D.E.I
BR
7.12.96

BR
5.12.96

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
R	101 TR 2	18 11/96	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
R	106	JN	4-12-96
R	107	JN	4-12-96
R	108	JN	7-12-96

9Q 25 11/96.

H.E. 11/12

To be cut until the village between it and the river are removed. This has been recommended by the Pub. Dept but appears to be still under consideration of the Rev. Dept.

4. During the financial difficulties the diversion of the flood bank below Shivaikundam cannot be the 10th mile was cut portion used in flood time and difficulties in acquiring the site seem to have caused further delay. The river flood was not high else the damage would have been very extensive.

5. The breached banks are small not connected with the Shivaikundam Anicut System. The bunds are of very local material but cannot be protected except at prohibitive cost.

10.12.96. W.H.

"I"

Recorded

17/1/97

To The Chief Engineer for Irrigation
Tuticorin Circle.

H.E. 14/12

Full Tank
Level = 8.0

Letter from Mr. P. Whitbread, Sub-divisional Officer, Srivaikunthan to the Executive Engineer, Tinnevelly Division, dated Tuticorin, 20th November 1896, No. C.:—

I have the honor to report the damages caused by the cyclone of the 14th Instant as seen by myself and as reported to me.

Koranpallam tank.

In Upsair O'dai Dam, 7 vents have been washed away in the centre of the Dam and two others much damaged. The water in the tank rose to 9.2 feet on the floor of the Fresh Water Channel Head Sluice on the 14th Instant evening.

Fresh water Channel.

Owing to the byewash of the Koranpallam tank having been opened to save the tank from breaching the water passing through it overtopped the banks of this channel and breached them in several places within a mile from its head.

Regarding these damages I got information for the 1st time at 7-30 P.M on the 15th Instant and was

on

on the spot on the 16th evening.

On the 17th I arranged and started closing the leading channel to the Ko-rampallam tank and to retain the remaining water in it. Much of the cross bund was finished that day, but it was washed away by another fresh down the Odai by the rainfall of that night. On this date the Revenue Inspector, Kurnam of Korampallam, another village Munsiff and two peons from the Tahsildar gave some help to collect coolies. On the 18th I restarted the cross bund and finished it by the evening. This day none of those who helped me on the previous day to collect coolies turned up although I requested the Revenue Inspector that the Kurnam, village Munsiff and peons should be ordered to be present as coolies in these parts were difficult to be collected. I had consequently to start work at 10 A.M. and not before. Another fall of rain on the evening of the 18th Instant along the course of the Odai brought down another fresh and carried away 15 feet in length of cross bund. On the morning of the 19th Instant I inspected the bund and seeing its state and the water being lost, I ordered the Superintendent, North Main Channel to write a tamil letter to the Kurnam of Korampallam requesting his attendance to help to collect coolies and he replied to say that he would collect the necessary coolies the next day. I have however collected coolies without his help and made safe the cross bund and stored 4.75 feet water this day against 5 feet on the 16th Instant.

Fresh water channel.

I have started closing these breaches from the 19th Instant with coolies obtained from Erial and hope to close them within 3 days.

The Puckle's Drain.

This also breached near the 4th mile stone of the Inticonin Pudicottah road and I have arranged to close also the breach in the same.

On the 13th Instant when I was at

Srivilliputtur

Srivaikuntham. I observed the weather to be suspicious from 3 P. M. of that date. I at once opened 15 sand vents of the Srivaikuntham anicut and closed the North and South main channel Head Sluices. There was then about 1 foot depth of water in the river. The rain was continuous all night and next day 14th Instant it blew very strong from North East or thereabouts and was dissolving the new bank of the closed breaches near the Srivaikuntham town. This I observed at 6.30 A. M. and immediately went to the Post Office to enquire by wire if there was any flood at Tinnevelly but I was told that Telegraphic communication ceased since the 13th Instant. After this I went over to the house of the Tahsildar and made arrangements with that Officer to collect coolies to put the new bank dissolving all night and make it safe. After much trouble we arranged to collect a few coolies and make the weakest portion safe by mid-day. The wind abated in violence by 11 A M. I obtained more coolies

(7)

coolies and made the remaining weak portions of the new bank at Srivaikuntham safe, against 17 feet flood by evening. On the next day 15th I made it still more safe.

Srivaikuntham Periakulam.

The new banks at Periachio settled a little but they were safe. The tank received much of the drainage down the Kilakkal channel. This channel I inspected on the 15th Instant and saw the bank between Manakarai and Alwarkarkulam being overtopped, and made a small cut at a safe place and thus relieved the channel.

The water down the Kilakkal channel was drainage water only as the Head Sluice was closed.

The strong wind that prevailed blew down many trees both in the town and along the roads. One palmyrah tree fell on the top of one of the out-houses of the present rest house at Puthukudi and damaged the roof. The rest house at Porur was saved by the Sub-Collector who happened to

camp

camps in it's trying down a tree in the act of falling on the building.

New North flood bank below S. A.

All the breaches have settled a little but they are perfectly safe. At the 3½ mile the Mahomedans living at Thoppur were cementing the bank and prevented by the villagers living on the opposite side from doing it. I was not able to find out the names of the men who tried to do this mischief.

North Main Channel.

Except a few high level breaches in the 11th and 12th miles there are no other damages to the channel banks. The Chettikulam, I hear, has breached.

The South Section overseer reports that owing to the Seidunkuruchan villagers not vacating their houses to admit of the formation of the diversion bank, to connect both ends the fresh in, the river rose high and passed through the east end of the village and carried away 340 feet in length of the newly formed river bank on the east side of the village besides re-opening the breaches in the Athur channel at the end of the Seidunkuruchan tank. I will inspect these works very soon and make further report. The cost of re-closing these breaches will be much as good earth is not obtainable in any place close by but it will have to be brought from a very great distance.

The Overseer South Section further reports that the following tanks have also breached.

(1) Kanankulam tank.
(2) Thulukenkulam tank.
(3) Avudiarkulam tank.
(4) Arumuganeri tank.

I have requested the Sub-Collector to issue orders to the village authorities to throw in ring bunds in front of breaches. I will inspect these breaches also very shortly and make a further report.

Telegram from the Superintending Engineer dated 16th I received on the 17th Instant.

Telegram from the Executive Engineer dated

dated 14th & received on the 19th instant.

No. 5056
30-11-96 Despt 1-12-96.

CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION. 2 DEC. 96 No. 1057 T.N.

Submitted to the Superintending Engineer 6th Circle for information.

Signed A. Joyce
Executive Engineer.

No. 1332 T.N.

Copy submitted to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, in continuation of this Office No 1272 T.N. dated & vide G.O No 997 S 25/11/96 16th November 1896.

Technical Sch 3
4 Dec 1896
054/—

O. C. Wardell Lieut Col R.E
Superintending Engineer
6th Circle.

O.C.S. 1/12/96

Public Works (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 591 9.

Order

From Government P. W. D.

No. 997 S.

Dated 25th November/96.
Received 26—11—96
Enclosures
Spare copies

SUBJECT.
Appeal Adai Dam Breach — Recording report & transmitting Supdt. N. Irrn Circle Memo. thereon.

Record

BR 26.11.96

27/11

copy of my ext tele rec from Superintendent, Orta
on Hanal, dated 11th ...ber 19..., to the ...ecutive Engi-
neer, Immovable ...ision.

Very heavy rain, canal water ris..., comes on at route of
Apparadai. dam washed away, four afternoon. Report relie on.

(True copy)

R.V. Soma

Head Clerk, P.W.D.