

Recording Prop of the Bd of Rev returning
the Collection of Madura for revision the
Scheme for the construction of village roads
in the Periyar irrigated tracts under do.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (189⁹) Department.

CURRENT No. 731

28/2

From The Board of Revenue, Land Revenue, Madras.

Order No. 7717205 10 February 1899.

Recorded.

He 10/2/88



No. 88 Ref.

Dated 26th January 1899

Received 28/1

Registered 30/1

Enclosures

Spare copies

To Land Dept
To the Board of Rev (Land Rev)

Bus. 22-2-99

CD
7-2-88
RS
9-2-99

SUBJECT.

Remitting Requesting to the Collector of Madura for revision the scheme for the construction of village roads in the Periyar affected tracts in the Madura District.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Cuo:	8773	298	Not Disposed

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

printed Government Order, No. 545 L, dated 23rd March 1898. It
 ger sum might be dev to the in-

Office of the Board of Revenue,
 (Land Revenue).

Dated 26th January '99.

Read the following :-

1. letter from J.G.D. Partridge Esquire, Acting Collec-
 tor of Madura, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Re-
 venue, Madras, R.O.C. No. 2958/genl. of 1898, dated 5th November
 1898, submitting a further report proposing measures for the
 construction/ of cross-roads in the Periyar affected tracts
 of the Madura and Melur Taluks.

2. Also Endorsement of the same officer, Dis. No. 968/D
 of 1898, dated 23rd November 1898, submitting progress report on
 the Periyar cross-roads for the months of September and Octo-
 ber 1898.

3. Also Government Order, Revenue Department, No. 4939
 Misc., dated 14th December 1898, recording letter from the Presi-
 dent, District Board, Madura reporting upon the additional income
 expected from land-cess in consequence of the Periyar Project
 and requesting the Board of Revenue to expedite the submission
 of the scheme of improved communication in the Periyar region
 the preparation of which was ordered in Government Order, No.
 3328 Rev. dated 12-8-98.

-----:O:-----

Reference No. 88 dated 26th January 1899

The Board is not in a position to subject the
 proposals of the District Board to detailed criticism, but it
 is clear that they are at fault in one fundamental respect and
 that this error will necessitate their complete revision. The
 Board refers to what appears to be the underlying assumption
 on which the proposals are based, viz., that the Periyar project
 is such a source of profit to Government that a substantial
 contribution from provincial funds may reasonably be expected.
 As a matter of fact, how the project has
 already been enormous a

Sum of Rs. 19261 to the project has
 been already enormous a

equal to the amount which Government has to pay on the borrowed capital. Unless and until the resultant profit exceeds the payment of interest at current rates it would seem clearly unfair to call upon the general tax-payer to make any further contribution towards the improvement of communications in the special tract affected by the project. For the present therefore the District Board must be content with cutting its coat according to its cloth.

2. There is no immediate prospect of a further grant from Government and with the Government paper at a discount the most that the District Board can reasonably expect is the grant of a Government loan at 4 per cent repayable on the usual terms i.e. in annual instalments of principal and interest spread over a period of 30 years. The annual payment per lakh of rupees so borrowed would be Rs. 5783. The grant and loan which are now asked for come to four lakhs, the whole of which if borrowed would necessitate repayment in annual instalments of slightly over Rs. 23,000. Taking the maintenance at Rs. 18,000, the total annual payment would amount to some 41,000 rupees, leaving out of account altogether the cost of constructing and maintaining inter-village and petty roads, classes III and IV. Against this expenditure the only receipt which the Local Board is willing to set aside is the additional land-cess which, it is estimated, will not exceed some 35,000 rupees per annum. To make both ends meet it is therefore necessary either to cut down the expenditure proposed or to increase the receipts or to have recourse to both these methods of equalizing out-goings and incomings.

3. As already observed the Board is not in a position to enter upon detailed criticism, but the following remarks may be of assistance in solving the difficulty:-

As regards the receipts the last Administration Report shows that on the 31st March 1898 the District Board had in hand a balance of Rs. 177538 of which Government remarked that the greater portion might with advantage have been spent on the improvement of roads and sanitation (para 5 of Government Order No. 1759 L, dated 21st September 1898). It is true that a portion of this balance appertained to Unions and endowed institutions, but the construction of Union and market feeder roads is a legitimate charge on such funds.

The Board observes further that the current year's budget pro-

printed in Government Order, No. 545 L, dated 23rd March 1898. It would seem that a much larger sum might be devoted to the improvement of communications in the Periyar tract, and the question whether the Madura and Melur taluks already received their fair share of the income derived from the land-cess realized within their limits is a matter which calls for investigation, if this has not already formed the subject of enquiry.

4. As to whether the estimate of the extra revenue to be expected from land-cess is adequate, the Board cannot form an opinion, but it observes that the District Board will no doubt reap additional income from other sources owing to the general development of this tract of country in consequence of the extension of irrigational facilities. There will probably be a general increase in population and wealth and a special revenue might reasonably be raised by the opening of new toll-gates.

5. As regards the curtailment of expenditure the only minor point that has attracted the Board's notice is the fact that no allowance appears to have been made under the head "Land Acquisition" for the free grant of Government waste. This might reasonably be requested. Presumably steps have been taken to prevent alienation of any waste lands which are likely to be required in connection with this scheme.

This, however, is comparatively a trivial matter. The only effectual way of cutting down the expenditure is by rejecting as unnecessary or too costly a considerable number of the roads which have now been proposed for consideration. Experience in the delta tracts of other districts, even in Tanjore where there are no navigable canals, shows that such a network of roads is not an imperative necessity and the Board has no doubt that the local knowledge of the members of the Taluk and District Board and the revenue officers of the Madura and Melur taluks will furnish the Collector and District Board President with information as to the directions in which economy will be least open to objection. It may be that the increasing wealth of the District Board or the success of the Periyar project will ultimately render possible

this is certain the expenditure on improving communications in the Periyar tract must be kept rigidly within the limits of the income available with the existing resources of the District and Taluk Board. The Board understands that the Collector, Mr. Weir, was about to investigate the matter personally and to make a tour of inspection through the locality affected. If he is prevented from doing so by his transfer from the District, Mr. Partridge should himself adopt this course and make every endeavour to submit revised proposals with the utmost possible expedition. The Board regrets the necessity for returning the present scheme for revision but in the circumstances no other course was possible and the local authorities must try to minimize the consequent delay by carrying out the revision of the original scheme as speedily as is consistent with thoroughness.

Lancel Davidson

Ag. Secretary.

To

The Collector of Madura.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

MC.R.L.

Isa

Notes Communicated to the Board 779/1000-7-9-98

D 1,000-7-9-98

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

C No. 731 of 1899.

From the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue)

Ref. No 88 Dated 26 - 1 - 1899.

FOR ORDERS.

To the Under Secretary

The Board of Rev.

returns to the Collector of Madura with remarks on the Scheme of improved Communications in the area irrigated by the Periyar Project in the Madura and Melur taluks and the estimates of the cost thereof which were called for in go. 3328. As the estimate is too high (about 4 lakhs) the Scheme is returned for speedy revision. The main objection to it which the Board has urged is that it appears to proceed on the assumption that a substantial contribution will be made from Provincial

fund.

funds. Seeing that the success of the Periyar Project as a profitable outlay, has not yet become an established fact, the Board of Rev observes that, at this stage, no contribution from Provincial funds will be fair, and that therefore, for the present, the Scheme should, by omitting the many unnecessary and too costly roads, be limited to the resources of the Dt and Taluk Boards, with a prospect of its being extended when the increasing wealth of the Dt Board or the success of the project renders possible additional contribution from Local or Provincial funds. The question of how far the cost of the Scheme should be borne by part from Provincial funds and how

how far by the Dt Board came before you, and its consideration was deferred pending the receipt from the Board of the financial forecast of the income which it will derive in consequence of the Project and of the expenditure it proposes to incur. The forecast of the income has since come in and has been recorded in No. 4939, pending the receipt of the Scheme for improving the Communications.

It is submitted that the Bd's Prof (the current) may be recorded pending the receipt of the revised scheme, copy being forwarded to the L & M. Dept. A draft order is accordingly put up on the docket of the current for approval.

H. M. S. 10/1/49
Jes 17/1/49

FOR ORDERS.

15/11/07