

Communicating to the B.S. of Revenue, the receipt ^{by} of the
Govt of India (Dept of Revenue & Agric) of the Budget estimate of the
Indian Dept for 1898-1899.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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I C 2300/99							

Revenue Department.

FILE No. 30 OF 1899.

SERIAL No. 2

1899.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

FORESTS.

Current No. 1182.

RESOLUTION.

Nos. 159-161 F.
30-2

Dated Calcutta, the 7th February 1899.

Submitted

20.2.99

G.O. Min 18787 of 21.2.1899.

Communicated to the Secy of Res.

L.R.

21.2.99

SUBJECT.

Budget Estimate of the Forest Department in the Madras Presidency for 1899-1900.

67 to the Secy Res

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Nos. $\frac{159-161}{30-2}$ F.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Forests): dated Calcutta, the 7th February 1899.

READ the following Resolutions containing the orders of the Government of India on the Budget Estimate of the Forest Department in the Madras Presidency for 1898-99:—

Nos. 111 to 113 F., dated 2nd February 1898.

No. 1477 A. (Financial), dated 28th March 1898.

Read also—

Proceedings of the Government of Madras, No. 700, dated 17th December 1898, regarding the Budget Estimate for 1899-1900.

RESOLUTION.

The Actuals of 1897-98, compared with the Estimates, were as follows:—

	Budget Estimate.	Revised Estimate.	Actuals.
	R	R	R
Receipts	23,73,000	22,50,000	21,36,492
Charges {	A.—Conservancy and Works	...	7,57,520
	B.—Establishments	...	8,15,334
	Total	17,25,000	15,72,854
Surplus	6,48,000	6,50,000	5,63,638

2. The decrease in the Receipts, as was foreseen when the Revised Estimate came under consideration, was mainly due to the unfavourable character of the season in several districts; famine in Madras and plague in Bombay adversely affected trade in forest products, and the people availed themselves largely of the concessions of forest produce granted to them. There was also a great fall in the market price of teak poles owing to the plague in Bombay, which is the main market for this class of produce. A general slackness of demand for timber and fuel also prevailed; departmental fellings were consequently either discontinued or abandoned in favour of the sale of standing trees to contractors; the Railway Company did not take over the full quantity of fuel indented for, and, owing to the movement of troops, less fuel was supplied to the Commissariat Department, while there were unusually large sales of firewood by private individuals at Ootacamund.

The decrease in the Charges was similarly due to the contraction or postponement of works of improvement in view of the unfavourable season, as well as to savings in the expenditure on surveys executed by the Survey of India Department, Rs. 1,00,507 having been spent under this head against Rs. 1,54,000 originally estimated. Rupees 24,914 were spent on exchange compensation allowance.

3. The Estimates for 1898-99 are:—

	Budget Estimate.	Revised Estimate.
	R	R
Receipts	23,52,000	22,70,000
Charges { A.—Conservancy and Works	...	8,60,000
{ B.—Establishments	...	8,17,000
Total	17,00,000	16,77,000
Surplus	6,52,000	5,93,000

4. A decrease of R82,000 is expected in the Receipts, inasmuch as the original estimates of the Northern and Central Circles are now considered to be over-sanguine; they have therefore been recast under many heads with reference to past and latest actuals.

The decrease of R23,000 in the Charges occurs under "B. Establishments," and is occasioned by the absence on long leave of a larger number of officers than was contemplated at the time the original estimate was framed, to exchange compensation allowance being calculated at a lower rate (R16,600 have now been included in place of R20,900), and to the sanctioned scale of the subordinate staff not being worked up to for want of suitable men. It is observed that R1,03,570 (instead of R1,11,660 as originally estimated) have been provided on account of surveys to be carried out by the Survey of India Department, in accordance with information furnished to the Board of Revenue by the officer in charge of the survey parties. The Surveyor General has, however, included only R78,780 for this work in his own Revised Estimate for 1898-99, and a reduction of R25,000 will therefore be made in the A. Charges of the Forest Department's Revised Estimate.

An examination of the latest actuals leads the Government of India to think that both Receipts and Charges have been placed somewhat high. The following figures are accordingly accepted for the Revised Estimates, subject to such modifications as may hereafter be communicated by telegram:—

Receipts	R
Charges	21,80,000
Surplus	16,00,000
	5,80,000

5. The Budget Estimate proposed for 1899-1900 is:—

Receipts	R
Charges { A.—Conservancy and Works	24,30,000
{ B.—Establishments	9,20,000
Total	8,30,000
Surplus	17,50,000
	6,80,000

6. The Receipts have been entered at nearly 3 lakhs more than the Actuals of 1897-98 and R1,60,000 in excess of the Revised Estimate for 1898-99 proposed by the Government of Madras, as the season is said to promise well, and a return to normal conditions, with a more general extension of operations, is expected. A large supply of sleepers and fuel to the Madras

Railway is also to be undertaken departmentally, though the Local Government doubts whether the Department will be able to work up to its forecast as regards sleepers to be supplied. Rupees 5,42,000 are estimated from timber, R5,14,000 from fuel, R2,02,000 from bamboos, R10,60,000 from grass and other minor produce, and R20,000 from sandalwood.

7. The Charges under "A. Conservancy and Works" are R1,63,000 more than the Actuals of 1897-98 and R60,000 in excess of the Revised Estimate for 1898-99 (as passed by the Madras Government). This increased expenditure is principally required in order to ensure the corresponding increase of revenue. It is also considered necessary to provide good roads for the transport of forest produce, as well as proper accommodation for subordinate establishments in the Northern Circle, which is in a backward condition in these respects. A larger area will, moreover, be planted up under the provisions of working-plans. Rupees 87,000 are provided for the supply of timber by departmental agency, and R1,20,000 for the similar supply of fuel; R1,03,000 on account of the removal of timber and other produce by private enterprise; R1,36,000 under "Communications and buildings;" R60,000 in connection with the demarcation and settlement of the forests; R1,14,000 to meet the cost of surveys (including R92,000 for those by the Survey of India, as estimated by the Surveyor General); R50,000 on account of sowing and planting; and R44,000 for fire-protection. A total sum of R2,09,000 is included under the various heads of "A. Conservancy and Works" for the entertainment of temporary establishments.

8. The amount shown against "B. Establishments" is composed of the following items:—

	R
Pay of Conservators	43,600
" Superior Forest Officers	2,61,000
" Forest Settlement Officers (five)	30,000
Deputation and special allowances	3,800
Exchange compensation allowance	18,400
	3,61,800
Deduct—Probable savings	33,000
	3,28,800
Pay of Subordinate Forest Establishments	2,50,680
" Office Establishments	*1,06,512
	3,57,192
Deduct—Probable savings	43,192
	3,14,000
Travelling allowances	1,35,700
Contingencies	51,500
Total	8,30,000

* Includes R25,464 for temporary employés.

The provision for salaries is certified by the Accountant General, Madras, to be in accordance with the sanctioned scale.

9. Travelling allowances and Contingencies during the last three years for which actual figures are available have been as follows, compared with the estimates for 1898-99 and 1899-1900 :—

		Travelling allowances.	Contingencies.
		R	R
Actuals	1895-96	1,22,202	40,868
	1896-97	1,15,794	44,470
	1897-98	1,29,755	52,277
Estimates	1898-99	1,28,000	50,000
	1899-1900	1,35,700	51,500

The proposed increase under Travelling allowances is due to the fact that fewer officers are expected to be on leave in Europe, and that a larger subordinate staff will be entertained under the re-organisation scheme.

10. The following is a comparison of the Actuals of 1897-98 with the Revised Estimate for 1898-99 (as passed by the Madras Government) and the Budget Estimate for 1899-1900, arranged under the main heads of Receipts and Charges :—

Receipts.	Actuals, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 18 8-99.	Budget Estimate, 1899-1900.
	R	R	R
I.—Timber and other produce removed and sold on Government account.	4,91,451	4,89,200	6,40,250
II to V.—Other revenue	16,45,041	17,80,800	17,89,750
Total	21,36,492	22,70,000	24,30,000
Charges.			
A. I.—Timber and other produce re- moved on Government account.	1,80,336	2,00,850	2,43,170
A. II, III, and IV.—Other revenue	91,805	1,01,130	1,05,250
A. V, VII, and VIII.—Formation, pro- tection, and improvement of forests	4,25,172	4,89,490	5,06,350
A. VI and IX.—Live and dead-stock and miscellaneous charges	60,207	68,530	65,230
B.—Establishments	8,15,334	8,17,000	8,30,000
Total	15,72,854	16,77,000	17,50,000
Surplus	5,63,638	5,93,000	6,80,000

11. The Government of India are inclined to think that the estimates of revenue are somewhat too sanguine, and information from the Madras Government shows that the charges may be reduced by R70,000. The following figures are therefore provisionally sanctioned as the Budget Estimate for 1899-1900 :—

Receipts	R
Charges	23,80,000
Surplus	16,80,000
	7,00,000

ORDER—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded, for information and guidance, to the Government of Madras; and for information to the Finance Department and the Comptroller and Auditor General.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to the Government of India.

Rm.

The Secretary to the Govt of Madras,
Revenue Department.

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When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

, DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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