



**REPORT  
ON  
MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS  
IN  
MADRAS STATE**

**COMMITTEE ON PLAN PROJECTS  
(Irrigation & Power Team)  
NEW DELHI  
November, 1959**

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

No. COPP/I&P/25/59  
Committee on Plan Projects.

Vice Chancellor's Lodge,  
Roorkee.

Dated the 30th November, 1959.

Dear Shri Pant,

It is a matter of profound pleasure for me to forward herewith the Report of the Minor Irrigation Projects Team on Minor Irrigation Works in the State of Madras. The study and investigations were conducted and the Report was finalised under the able Leadership of my predecessor, Shri N. V. Gadgil.

The Team's main recommendation is to reclaim Peramboke lands under the tanks according to a phased programme to be included in the Third Five Year Plan. The observations and recommendations of the Team included in the Report are based on an on-the-spot study of Minor Irrigation Works in the State. The comments of the Madras Government and the Food & Agriculture Ministry are given in Appendix XVII.

I take this opportunity of thanking you for the close personal interest evinced by you in the investigations and for guidance from time to time during the study.

With respects,

Yours sincerely,  
*A. N. KHOSLA.*

Shri Govind Ballabh Pant,  
Minister for Home Affairs,  
Government of India,  
NEW DELHI.

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## PREFACE

This is the second Report in the series of Reports being issued by the Minor Irrigation Team, appointed by the Committee on Plan Projects for study and investigation of minor irrigation works in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Madras, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The Terms of Reference were communicated to the Leader of the Team by the Committee on Plan Projects under Memorandum No. COPP/(4)/17/58 dated the 4th August 1958 (Appendix I). The composition of the Team was as follows :—

Shri N. V. Gadgil	.. .. .	Leader
Shri Lal Singh, Director of Agriculture (Retd.) Punjab.	.. .. .	Member
*Shri M. Narasimhaiya, Chief Engineer (Retd.), Mysore.	.. .. .	Member
Shri Mahavir Prasad, Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India, Ministry of Food & Agriculture.	.. .. .	Member Ex-officio

Shri D. S. Borker, Secretary to the Consultative Committee, Irrigation & Power Projects also worked as Secretary to the Minor Irrigation Team.

2. The Team adopted the same method of study as in the case of Mysore State. Preliminary discussions were first held by the Team with the State Authorities and a plan of work chalked out in mutual consultation (Appendix II). The Members of the Team visited the Madras State during the period July-September 1958 specially the districts of Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Chingleput and Coimbatore to study the Minor Irrigation Works and discussed the important problems involved with the Chief Engineer and other concerned officials. Also case studies were carried out on some tanks in operation, selected at random from the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli.

3. The Government of Madras have shown great appreciation of the need for developing minor irrigation projects on efficient and economical basis with a view to encouraging attainment of higher target of food production. This was also emphasised by the Minister for Agriculture, Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam during the Southern Regional Minor Irrigation Conference held at Hyderabad in July 1958.

4. The Team's main recommendation is to reclaim Peramboke lands under the tanks according to a phased programme to be included in the Third Five Year Plan.

5. Shri V. T. Krishnamachari, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission took consistent interest in the conduct of these studies and discussed the Team's preliminary findings with the Government of Madras when he was last there. He was told that the Government of Madras were not in favour of selling foreshore lands on which the silt (removed from the bed of tanks) is spread. Instead they preferred to use the reclaimed land for community

\* Ceased to be Member from 22nd February, 1959.

purposes such as nursery beds, tree-planting etc. In the opinion of the State Government, adoption of such measures would help to conserve the soil. The Deputy Chairman, however, has advised the State Government that where lands are valuable, there should be no hesitation in selling and recouping the expenditure incurred on renovation.

6. We take this opportunity to record our gratitude to the Madras Government for the facilities extended during our study and the spirit of accommodation shown by all concerned officers. We are specially indebted to Shri K. Kamaraj Nadar, Chief Minister, Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture, Shri P. P. I. Vaidyanathan, ICS, Secretary, Agriculture & Food Production Department, Shri U. Ananda Rao, Chief Engineer and Shri K. V. Ekambaram, the present Chief Engineer dealing with the Minor Irrigation schemes.