

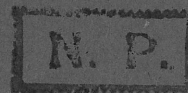
Government  of Madras

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1188, 15th September 1917

Building grant

Sanctioning, subject to certain conditions, a — of Rs. 50,000 towards the cost of constructing a building for the Sourashtra high school, Madura, exclusive of the cost of the ornamental portion of the building.



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ORIGINAL

Government  of Madras

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1188, 15th September 1917

## Building grant

Sanctioning, subject to certain conditions, a — of Rs. 50,000 towards the cost of constructing a building for the Sourashtra high school, Madura, exclusive of the cost of the ornamental portion of the building.

READ—the following papers:—

## I

*Letter*—from the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE, M.A., F.R.H.S., C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

*To*—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

*Dated*—the 29th June 1917.

*No.*—Ref. on C. 1754.

The authorities of the Sourashtra high school, Madura, propose to construct a new building for the school at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.5 lakhs and request a half grant thereon. They have already secured a site for this purpose and in their Order No. 342, Home (Education), dated 13th March 1917, Government have sanctioned a grant not exceeding Rs. 13,600 towards its cost and for a play-ground for the school. In submitting herewith the plans (marked 209A, B and C) and estimates prepared by Mr. S. D. Pears in accordance with my suggestions, I have the honour to recommend that Government may be pleased to sanction a half grant for the school.

## II

*Letter*—from M.R.Ry. J. RAMA AYYAR AVARGAL, B.A., B.L., Honorary Secretary and Correspondent, Sourashtra high school, Madura.

*To*—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

*Dated*—(Camp), Ootacamund, the 3rd July 1917.

We have applied through the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, for a Provincial grant in respect of a new building which we propose to construct for the Sourashtra high school, Madura. The site has already been secured and we are in possession of necessary funds to proceed with the work. We understand from the Director of Public Instruction that our application for grant has been submitted to Government for orders.

The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew has kindly consented to lay the foundation stone of the new building and he has fixed the last week of July 1917 for the purpose.

We need hardly say that it is absolutely necessary that orders on our application for grant should be secured in time to admit of adequate arrangement being made for the ceremony of laying the foundation stone.

We therefore pray that very early orders may be passed on our application and the fact may be communicated to us by wire.

We beg to affix the necessary stamps to meet the expenses for the telegram.

## III

Letter—from M.R.Ry. J. RAMA AYYAR Avargal, B.A., B.L., Honorary Secretary and Correspondent, Sourashtra high school, Madura.  
To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.  
Dated—the 11th September 1917.  
No.—Ref. on C. 435.

With reference to our application for building grant which has been recommended by the Director of Public Instruction and sent to the Government for sanction, I have the honour to request you that you will be good enough to accord early sanction, as every preparation was already made to commence the work and as further delay will cause much inconvenience in more respects than one.

## Order—No. 1188, Home (Education), dated 15th September 1917.

The Government observe that the design submitted for the new building for the Sourashtra high school at Madura (Mr. S. D. Pears' design, dated the 3rd May 1917) is of an unnecessarily ornamental and expensive character. They are advised that a suitable design could be prepared to cost not more than Rs. 1,00,000. In the circumstances the Government are unable to sanction a grant amounting to half the estimated cost of the design submitted.

2. They are, however, pleased to sanction a grant not exceeding Rs. 50,000 towards the cost of constructing the building, subject to the due compliance by the school authorities with all the conditions prescribed in the Grant-in-Aid Code and the following conditions :—

- (a) that the grant will be paid when funds are available; and
- (b) that the building will be inspected on completion and is certified by an officer deputed by Government to be worth at least one lakh of rupees.

(True Extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction with plans and estimates.

" Accountant-General.  
" Collector of Madura.  
" Public Works Department, with copy of notes in print (and a set of plans and estimates).  
Editors' Table (Order only).

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1188, HOME (EDUCATION),  
DATED THE 15TH SEPTEMBER 1917.

[SUBJECT.—Application for a building grant for the Sourashtra High School, Madura.]

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that the plans and estimates may be forwarded to Public Works Department.

P.R.—2-7-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—2-7-17.

From the Secretary, Sourashtra High School, Madura, dated the 3rd July 1917.

Submitted that the plans and estimates relating to the proposed building of the Sourashtra high school were forwarded to the Public Works Department for scrutiny with this department No. 540-B-1, dated 2nd July 1917. The present communication from the secretary of the institution asking for early orders may also be forwarded to that department with the request that the case may be treated as specially urgent.

P.R.—5-7-17.

C.R.—5-7-17.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—6-7-17.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Consulting Architect has looked through the plans and is unable to dispose of the case at once. The estimate is a large one and a complete and satisfactory scrutiny will take two or three weeks. Sir Alexander Cardew should, I think, be informed of the present stage of the case.

D. MARSHALL—13-7-17.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The case may, it is submitted, be circulated to the Hon'ble Sir A. G. Cardew, K.C.S.I., for information.

P.R.—13-7-17.

C.R.—13-7-17.

I regret the Public Works Department is unable to complete a scrutiny of the estimates in time before the ceremony. Formally speaking, no sanction order can be issued in advance.

2. The plans and estimates have been prepared by Mr. S. D. Pears in accordance with the suggestions of the Director of Public Instruction. It may be presumed they are fairly accurate. The Director recommends a grant of Rs. 75,000. The community is a backward one but is latterly showing considerable push and self-reliance. There is every chance of the grant being sanctioned to be paid when funds become available.

Submitted for the Honourable Member's information.

R.R.—13-7-17.

Thanks. I won't make any promises!

A. G. CARDREW—13-7-17.

We had better send an intermediate reply to the Honorary Secretary.

R.R.—14-7-17.

The Honorary Secretary has asked for a telegraphic reply. The following telegram may therefore be despatched to him :—

" 326. Your letter [dated] 3rd July. Regret examination [of] plans [and] estimates cannot be completed nor orders passed on grant application before [the] middle [of] August."

2. After the issue of the telegram the file may be returned to the Public Works Department.

P.R.—14-7-17.

C.R.—14-7-17.



## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The plans and estimate submitted by the Director of Public Instruction have been generally examined in the Chief Engineer's office, and the Consulting Architect notes on the case as follows:—

"... I feel compelled to say that I do think that Mr. Pears' design of 3rd May 1917 for the Sourashtra school is extravagant. Its detail is very similar to the Madras High Court—as expensive a kind as any in Madras. It is very questionable whether Government ought to be asked to contribute towards unnecessary ornament, and features like towers. It might be a reasonable proposition if the building would thereby possess architectural merit or educative value. I regret very much to have to say that Mr. Pears' design would not in my opinion possess either. This is not merely a matter of opinion: it is a matter of fact that nobody trained in the rudiments of architectural design could fail to see that the manner in which the verandah treatment is fitted to the structure behind is radically bad. Mr. Pears' estimate works out at 3-9 annas per cubic foot. The last High Court extension (about 1909) worked out at As. 3-0-11 pies per cubic foot. In view of the rise in cost of building since 1909 it is very doubtful whether Mr. Pears will be able to get anything like good finish to his stone work within his estimate. Rates for cut-stone arch work (elaborately cusped) Rs. 2-2-0 per cubic foot, and cut-stone ornamental parapet 1-10 per running foot appear low, and suggest a crude finish.

I would suggest that the design should be returned with the remark that Government are not prepared to contribute towards a highly ornamental building which would not possess architectural merit proportionate to its cost.

Omitting the towers it should be possible to reduce the cubic contents to about 586,600 cubic feet, and to design a suitable school building giving similar accommodation to that shown on Mr. Pears' design for a lakh of rupees."

2. The Chief Engineer agrees with the Consulting Architect and considers that a revised design with a much less elaborate elevation should be prepared. With these remarks the file may be returned to the Home (Education) Department.

U.M.S.—25-7-17.

K.G.—26-7-17.

D. MARSHALL—26-7-17.

S. B. MURRAY—31-7-17.

## HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

As the foundation stone of the new building has already been laid by the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew, it does not seem proper to return the plans and estimates with the remark that the "Government are not prepared to contribute" towards a highly ornamental building. Submitted that the plans and estimates may be simply returned for revision and resubmission with reference to the Chief Engineer's remarks. Subject to orders a draft memorandum is submitted for approval. It may be circulated to His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew.

T.K.—7-8-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—12-8-17.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—13-8-17.

His Excellency would be glad to see again on return from the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew.

(By order)

T. E. MOIR—14-8-17.

Mr. Pears, who received a private intimation of Consulting Architect's views told me the day I left Madras for Madura that the expensive facade had been designed at the express request of the Sourashtra Committee who wanted something showy and ornate. Accordingly when I was shown the plans at Madura, I told the members of the committee that I thought the towers were needlessly expensive and I advised them to write to Mr. Pears to cut out the more costly part of the plan, i.e., the facade. This, however, it appears they are not willing to do. It does not seem to me necessary or justifiable for Government money to be spent on expensive (and I think ugly) ornament, and as the Consulting Architect advises that a suitable building could be designed for a lakh of rupees, omitting the towers, I would limit the Government grant to a half-grant on a lakh. If the Sourastras are foolish enough to stick to this expensive design, they must pay for the ornamental part of it. I hope they won't waste their money but if they do, it is not our affair.

2. I would not return the plans for revision, as that will throw everything back indefinitely but would simply accept the Consulting Architect's view, which seems to me quite correct, and base the grant on the sum which he says would build an equally good school-house.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—14-8-17.

Submitted to His Excellency the Governor.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—15-8-17.

P[ENTLAND]—15-8-17.

Draft giving 50,000 or half the total cost whichever is less.

R.R.—16-8-17.

A draft order is submitted for approval.

P.R.—17-8-17.

Apparently the Consulting Architect has not scrutinized the plans and estimates in detail as is usually done in the case of applications for grants for school buildings. His observations are of a general character. Before we sanction any grant, we should have the estimates and plans relating to the portion on which the grant is sanctioned, scrutinized in the Public Works Department in detail. It is not known whether the Public Works Department can do this now without calling for revised estimates. Though towers and other ornamentations may be left out in examination, it is likely that other portions of the buildings, e.g., foundation, etc., will have been affected by their existence and no useful scrutiny can be exercised in respect of those portions. Public Works Department may be first asked to advise what should be done in the existing stage of the matter.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—20-8-17.

Very well.

R.R.—23-8-17.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Consulting Architect notes as follows:—

"First I wish to call attention to the draft order which requires modification. I did not wish to imply that the towers were the only extravagance and that their omission alone would bring the cost down to anything like a lakh of rupees. The whole facade is extravagant.

"As no technical scrutiny has been applied, it would, I suggest, be better to omit the remarks about general examination. I would rewrite: 'The Government observe that the design submitted for the new building for the Sourashtra high school at Madura (Mr. S. D. Pears' design, dated 3rd May 1917) is of an unnecessarily ornamental and expensive character. They are advised that a suitable design could be prepared to cost not more than Rs. 1 lakh. In the circumstances, the Government are unable to sanction a grant amounting to half the estimated cost of the design submitted.

"They are however pleased to sanction a grant not exceeding Rs. 50,000 towards the cost of constructing the building, subject to the due compliance by the school authorities with all the conditions prescribed in the Grant-in-Aid Code."

"2. Secondly, I think it is clear from the Honourable Member's note, dated 14th August 1917, that he does not wish the scheme to be held back through our calling for further structural details with a view to going through the ordinary process of technical scrutiny. If the Honourable Member is prepared to agree that in cases like this, where designs are signed by a recognized professional man, all that is required of this office is to satisfy the Government regarding the amount of grant which they should give, and that responsibility for structural stability should rest with the author of the design and not with the Chief Engineer's office technical scrutiny, in the sense of calculating stresses in all wood and iron work, and pressures on masonry and abutments, seems to be not only unnecessary but undesirable.



"3. Whoever undertakes responsibility for structural stability must do the thing thoroughly. It would be quite impracticable for this office to 'technically scrutinize' part of the building and leave the rest to chance. So long as private practitioners know that responsibility for structural stability of a design rests with the Chief Engineer or his staff, they will worry much less about structural details than if they know they are to be held responsible. Mr. Pears I know admits this. At the same time, when he was Chief Engineer, he was strongly in favour of throwing responsibility for structural stability upon professional authors of designs. His attitude towards this was shown in a note in C.No. 8242/12.

"4. It is, I submit, most desirable to throw responsibility for structural stability upon the author of a design whenever there is reason to suppose that he is capable of undertaking it, not only because it would relieve the Chief Engineer's office of a certain amount of work, but because it is the first step to take towards fostering the growth of a responsible professional class and private enterprise. Nothing, I am convinced, retards architectural progress more than the present system under which any person who wants to erect a building, towards the cost of which he may expect a Government grant, can employ an ignorant draughtsman at a cost of a few rupees to get out a drawing, knowing that the design will have to be licked into shape in the Chief Engineer's office before it comes back with grant.

"5. I would urge that it is politic to encourage private bodies to employ professional men; and when they do so, as in this case, to let the professional man take the responsibility and do the work for which he is presumably paid. I suggest that the present case affords an opportune moment for soliciting definite orders on this subject, and that when a design for which a grant in aid is solicited bears the name of a recognized professional man, the Government should absolve themselves from all responsibility for structural stability, and examine the design only from the points of view of (1) general suitability for the purpose intended, and (2) the amount of grant which they should contribute. Under (1) the Chief Engineer's office would naturally take into consideration any existing regulations regarding floorspace and ventilation: under (2) attention would be drawn by this office to any apparent extravagance in design. One result of this would be that bodies who employ recognized professional assistance would get their cases through the mill much quicker than those who do not.

W. H. NICHOLLS—1-9-17."

Mr. Nicholls raises two points:—

(a) The general question as to the extent to which scrutiny should be applied to grant in aid buildings.

(b) How the present case should be dealt with in view of the Honourable Member's order, pages 2 and 3 ante, and the usual practice—vide Educational note on page 3 ante.

2. As regards the general question (a) it will be necessary to examine carefully all orders on the subject and the issues involved before putting the matter before Government. As this examination will take some time it is proposed to take up the question after orders on the particular case under reference have issued.

3. As regards the case under consideration, it is submitted that, if orders on it are to issue without further scrutiny of the plans and estimate, these orders should be worded as suggested by Mr. Nicholls at A page 3 ante. Further if no technical scrutiny is applied the local Public Works Department officers must not be called upon to inspect the building during construction or to give advice. The whole matter must be left in the hands of the designer of the building.

In this case, it is impossible to scrutinize the design without going into all the features of the buildings, as, for instance, the foundation and walls supporting the towers form an integral part of the lower structure. It may also be pointed out that the plans are incomplete and if a scrutiny of the structural stability of the building is to be made we must call for detailed drawings of the towers and verandahs, sections and constructions of domes, walls of towers, projecting balconies, etc., being shown. The construction of the main staircase should also be shown. It may here be remarked that, from a casual inspection of the plans, the abutments to the end of verandahs appear weak, the walls supporting the towers to be of insufficient thickness, one side of the main tower appears to be inadequately supported and there is

nothing to show that the foundations of the towers have been considered. If no scrutiny is made, it must be clearly pointed out in the order that the designs have not been examined for structural stability and that the designer must consider himself entirely responsible in this matter. The file may be seen by Educational prior to circulation to Honourable Member and Honourable Member (Financial).

D. MARSHALL—4-9-17.

It will take some time to arrive at a decision about the general question of "responsibility for structural stability" which has been raised by Mr. Nicholls and orders are now requested on the Sourashtra school building case. I agree entirely with what Mr. Nicholls has written, and I think Government's responsibility should begin and end with a donation of Rs. 50,000, the designer being solely responsible for structural stability.

S. B. MURRAY—5-9-17.

#### HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Please see the draft order suggested by the Consulting Architect at A on page 3 ante. According to that draft the grant is payable on "the due compliance by the school authorities with all the conditions prescribed in the Grant-in-Aid Code." The conditions are laid down in Articles 52 to 55 of the Code. During the progress of the work the officers of the Public Works Department should examine materials and take measurements and on its completion, the officer who examined the building should certify that the work has been completed in accordance with the approved plan and estimate or that the building is worth the amount on which the grant is claimed. The

form of the certificate in use, however, provides only for the first alternative referred to above, namely, for completion in accordance with the approved plans and estimates. As this is not possible in the present case, the Executive Engineer will have to adopt the second alternative, namely, that the building is worth the amount on which the grant is claimed. There appears to be no objection to the issue of the draft in the form suggested by the Consulting Architect.

2. The Public Works Department proposes to circulate the file to the Honourable Members, Public Works Department and Financial.

P.R.—6-9-17.

The disposal suggested by the Public Works Department initiates a departure from the usual practice. The object of the introduction of the professional scrutiny of the Public Works Department in these cases is to see that the grant which the Government sanction towards the building is not wasted on unsatisfactory and unsafe erections. In the present case doubts have been expressed in the Public Works Department Deputy Secretary's note above even as to the structural stability of some of the portions of the building proposed. Further from the portion marked B in the same note it seems to be contemplated that local inspection during construction will not also be carried out inasmuch as there was no technical scrutiny. This is a factor which will be against the provisions of the Grant-in-Aid Code. The Public

Works notes further assume that the designer, Mr. Pears, will be in charge of construction also. There seems to be nothing to show that the committee contemplate doing so.

2. For orders as to whether, as a special case, orders should issue as at A on page 3, technical scrutiny being dispensed with.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—6-9-17.

The objection to A is this. The building is unnecessarily ornamental. Knock off the ornament. If the balance of the estimate is less than a lakh, we need sanction less than 50,000. The difficulty would be to ascertain the balance.

2. It has also to be verified if the building otherwise satisfies the Grant-in-Aid Code conditions.

3. But is not the situation materially modified by the Honourable Member's letter in reply to the Sourashtras which I saw in the press? Please put up a cutting.

R. RAMACHANDRA Rao—7-9-17.

A cutting is submitted.

P.R.—7-9-17.

Details are wanting to discriminate between the cost of the essential part of the building and the cost of the ornamental part. But it is possible to proceed on the cost of similar buildings on the accommodation provided.

But doubts are raised as to the structural stability of the design. Engineers differ but for the time being I think we should be guided by the opinion of the Government Chief Engineer in office.

If this be accepted, the estimate in question is not eligible for any grant.

2. Attention is invited to the Honourable Member's (Financial) letter. I am

The Secretary must not take things too seriously or overlook the possibility of irony. Of course the Sourashtras are not Brahmans, and the claim to be Brahmans is all moonshine.

not sure what the Honourable Member's intentions are. There are two excellent high schools (and colleges) in Madura—a mission college in Teppakulam and a "Madura College" near the railway station.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—12-9-17

R.R.—10-9-17.

Subject to the Honourable Member's (Financial) observations. I agree to Rs. 50,000 : leaving further responsibility to the Sourashttras and their advisers : as under our usual system.

P[ENTLAND]—10-9-17.

I agree with His Excellency the Governor. Also with Mr. Nicholls and the Hon'ble Mr. Murray. I think there is no doubt that the methods of examining plans and estimate before aid is given have in the past been rather too complex.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—11-9-17.

A draft order embodying the Consulting Architect's suggestion at **A** on page 3 ante is submitted for approval.

P.R.—12-9-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—12-9-17.

Article 51 (ii) of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

Should we not check if the design fulfills the conditions in the Grant-in-Aid Code regarding floorspace, etc.?

R.R.—13-9-17.

Submitted that it is not essential that the point should be checked in this office since the Director of Public Instruction will satisfy himself on this point with refer-

Cf. Appendix M on page 30 the Grant-in-Aid Code.

the application for grant which in this case has not been submitted to Government and also because the point is covered by the condition mentioned in the draft order that the school authorities should comply with all "the conditions prescribed in the Grant-in-Aid Code."

P.R.—14-9-17.

The Director of Public Instruction looks to these things and submits the plans and estimates to Government only after satisfying himself on those points.

C.R.—14-9-17.

Issue.

R.R.—15-9-17.

[G.O. No. 1188, Home (Education), dated the 15th September 1917.]

Building grant.

Saundering a building Grant of Rs. 5000 towards the cost of construction a building for the Sanskrita high school, Madras, exclusive of the cost of the ornamental portion of the building.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. ...., dated ..... 191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 54016, From the 813, No. 1754/12, dated the 29. 6. 1917

1570 Nov. 22 + Correspondent 3. 7. 1917

11-9-1917

## ORDER

No. 1188, dated 15-9, 191

The Govt. observe that the design submitted for the new building for the Sourashtra high school at Madras (nr. S. D. Pears' design of the 3. 5. 17) is of an unnecessarily ornamental and expensive character. They are advised that a suitable design could be prepared to cost not more than Rs 1,00,000. In the circumstances the Govt. are unable to sanction a grant amounting to half the estimated cost of the design submitted.

2. They are, however, pleased to sanction a grant not exceeding Rs 50,000 towards the cost of construction.



The building, subject to the due compliance by the school authorities with all the conditions prescribed in the Grant-in-aid Code. And the fully contents

12.9.17. 12.9.17

- (a) The grant will be paid when funds are available
- (b) The building will be inspected by the complete & is referred to an officer deputed by Govt. to be worth at least one lac of rupees

*[Faint handwritten notes and signatures on the left margin, including "12.9.17" and "12.9.17"]*

*[Handwritten notes and signatures in the center margin, including "12.9.17", "12.9.17", and "12.9.17"]*

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1183, HOME (EDUCATION),  
DATED 15th SEPTEMBER 1917.

[SUBJECT.—Application for a building grant for the Sourashtra high school, Madura.]

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that the plans and estimates may be forwarded to Public Works Department.  
P.R.—2-7-17.

C. RAMANUJA-ACHARIYAR—2-7-17.

From the Secretary, Sourashtra high school, Madura, dated the 3rd July 1917.  
Submitted that the plans and estimates relating to the proposed building of the Sourashtra high school were forwarded to the Public Works Department u.o. for scrutiny with this department u.o. No. 540-B-1, dated 2nd July 1917. The present communication from the secretary of the institution asking for early orders may also be forwarded to that department with the request that the case may be treated as specially urgent.  
P.R.—5-7-17.

C.R.—5-7-17.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—6-7-17.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Consulting Architect has looked through the plans and is unable to dispose of the case at once. The estimate is a large one and a complete and satisfactory scrutiny will take two or three weeks. Sir Alexander Cardew should, I think, be informed of the present stage of the case.

D. MARSHALL—13-7-17.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The case may, it is submitted, be circulated to the Hon'ble Sir A. G. Cardew, K.C.S.I., for information.  
P.R.—13-7-17.

C.R.—13-7-17.

I regret the Public Works Department is unable to complete a scrutiny of the estimates in time before the ceremony. Formally speaking, no sanction order can be issued in advance.

The plans and estimates have been prepared by Mr. S. D. Pears in accordance with the suggestions of the Director of Public Instruction. It may be presumed they are fairly accurate. The Director recommends a grant of Rs. 75,000. The community is a backward one but is latterly showing considerable push and self-reliance. There is every chance of the grant being sanctioned to be paid when funds become available. Submitted for Honourable Member's information.

R.R.—13-7-17.

Thanks. I won't make any promises!

A. G. CARDREW—13-7-17.

We had better send an intermediate reply to the Honorary Secretary.

R.R.—14-7-17.

The Honorary Secretary has asked for a telegraphic reply. The following telegram may therefore be despatched to him:—

"326. Your letter [dated] 3rd July. Regret examination [of] plans [and] estimates cannot be completed nor orders passed on grant application before [the] middle [of] August."





2 NOTES TO G.O. No. 1188, HOME (EDUCATION), 15TH SEPTEMBER 1917

2. After the issue of the telegram the file may be returned to the Public Works Department.

P.R.—14-7-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—14-7-17.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The plans and estimate submitted by the Director of Public Instruction have been generally examined in the Chief Engineer's office, and the Consulting Architect notes on the case as follows:—

"... I feel compelled to say that I do think that Mr. Pears' design of 3rd May 1917 for the Sourashtra school is extravagant. Its detail is very similar to the Madras High Court—as expensive a kind as any in Madras. It is very questionable whether Government ought to be asked to contribute towards unnecessary ornament, and features like towers. It might be a reasonable proposition if the building would thereby possess architectural merit or educative value. I regret very much to have to say that Mr. Pears' design would not in my opinion possess either. This is not merely a matter of opinion: it is a matter of fact that nobody trained in the rudiments of architectural design could fail to see that the manner in which the verandah treatment is fitted to the structure behind is radically bad. Mr. Pears' estimate works out at 39 annas per cubic foot. The last High Court extension (about 1909) worked out at As. 3-0-11 pies per cubic foot. In view of the rise in cost of building since 1909 it is very doubtful whether Mr. Pears will be able to get anything like good finish to his stone work within his estimate. Rates for cut-stone arch work (elaborately cusped) Rs. 2-2-0 per cubic foot, and cut-stone ornamental parapet 1-10 per running foot appear low, and suggest a crude finish.

I would suggest that the design should be returned with the remark that Government are not prepared to contribute towards a highly ornamental building which would not possess architectural merit proportionate to its cost.

Omitting the towers it should be possible to reduce the cubic contents to about 586,000 cubic feet, and to design a suitable school building giving similar accommodation to that shown on Mr. Pears' design for a lakh of rupees."

The Chief Engineer agrees with the Consulting Architect and considers that a revised design with a much less elaborate elevation should be prepared. With these remarks the file may be returned to the Home (Education) Department n.o.

W.M.G.—25-7-17.

K.G.—26-7-17.

D. MARSHALL—26-7-17.

S. B. MURRAY—31-7-17.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

As the foundation stone of the new building has already been laid by the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew, it does not seem proper to return the plans and estimates with the remark that the "Government are not prepared to contribute" towards a highly ornamental building. Submitted that the plans and estimates may be simply returned for revision and resubmission with reference to the Chief Engineer's remarks. Subject to orders a draft memorandum is submitted for approval. It may be circulated to His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew.

T.K.—7-8-17.

C.R.—12-8-17.

R.R.—13-8-17.

His Excellency would be glad to see again on return from the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew.

(By order)

T. E. MOIR—14-8-17.

Mr. Pears, who received a private intimation of Consulting Architect's views, told me the day I left Madras for Madura that the expensive facade had been designed at the express request of the Sourashtra Committee who wanted something showy and ornate. Accordingly when I was shown the plans at Madura, I told the members of the committee that I thought the towers were needlessly expensive and I advised them to write to Mr. Pears to cut out the more costly part of the plan, i.e.,

the façade. This, however, it appears they are not willing to do. It does not seem to me necessary or justifiable for Government money to be spent on expensive (and I think ugly) ornament, and as the Consulting Architect advises that a suitable building could be designed for a lakh of rupees, omitting the towers, I would limit the Government grant to a half-grant on a lakh. If the Sourashtras are foolish enough to stick to this expensive design, they must pay for the ornamental part of it. I hope they won't waste their money but if they do, it is not our affair.

I would not return the plans for revision, as that will throw everything back indefinitely but would simply accept the Consulting Architect's view, which seems to me quite correct, and base the grant on the sum which he says would build an equally good school-house.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—14-8-17.

Submitted to His Excellency the Governor.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—15-8-17.

P[ENTLAND]—15-8-17.

Draft giving 50,000 or half the total cost whichever is less.

R.R.—16-8-17.

A draft order is submitted for approval.

P.R.—17-8-17.

Apparently the Consulting Architect has not scrutinized the plans and estimates in detail as is usually done in the case of applications for grants for school buildings. His observations are of a general character. Before we sanction any grant, we should have the estimates and plans relating to the portion on which the grant is sanctioned, scrutinized in the Public Works Department in detail. It is not known whether the Public Works Department can do this now without calling for revised estimates. Though towers and other ornamentations may be left out in examination, it is likely that other portions of the buildings, e.g., foundation, etc., will have been affected by their existence and no useful scrutiny can be exercised in respect of those portions. Public Works Department may be first asked to advise what should be done in the existing stage of the matter.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—20-8-17.

Very well.

R.R.—23-8-17.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Consulting Architect notes as follows :—

"First I wish to call attention to the draft order which requires modification. I did not wish to imply that the towers were the only extravagance and that their omission alone would bring the cost down to anything like a lakh of rupees. The whole façade is extravagant.

As no technical scrutiny has been applied, it would, I suggest, be better to omit the remarks about general examination. I would rewrite: 'The Government observe that the design submitted for the new building for the Sourashtra high school at Madura (Mr. S. D. Pears' design, dated 3rd May 1917) is of an unnecessarily ornamental and expensive character. They are advised that a suitable design could be prepared to cost not more than Rs. 1 lakh. In the circumstances, the Government are unable to sanction a grant amounting to half the estimated cost of the design submitted.

They are however pleased to sanction a grant not exceeding Rs. 50,000 towards the cost of constructing the building, subject to the due compliance by the school authorities with all the conditions prescribed in the Grant-in-Aid Code.'

Secondly, I think it is clear from the Honourable Member's note, dated 14th August 1917, that he does not wish the scheme to be held back through our calling for further structural details with a view to going through the ordinary process of technical scrutiny. If the Honourable Member is prepared to agree that in cases like this, where designs are signed by a recognized professional man, all that is



required of this office is to satisfy the Government regarding the amount of grant which they should give, and that responsibility for structural stability should rest with the author of the design and not with the Chief Engineer's office / technical scrutiny, in the sense of calculating stresses in all wood and iron work, and pressures on masonry and abutments, seems to be not only unnecessary but undesirable.

Whoever undertakes responsibility for structural stability must do the thing thoroughly. It would be quite impracticable for this office to 'technically scrutinize' part of the building and leave the rest to chance. So long as private practitioners know that responsibility for structural stability of a design rests with the Chief Engineer or his staff, they will worry much less about structural details than if they know they are to be held responsible. Mr. Pears I know admits this. At the same time, when he was Chief Engineer, he was strongly in favour of throwing responsibility for structural stability upon professional authors of designs. His attitude towards this was shown in a note in C.No. 8242/12.

It is, I submit, most desirable to throw responsibility for structural stability upon the author of a design whenever there is reason to suppose that he is capable of undertaking it, not only because it would relieve the Chief Engineer's office of a certain amount of work, but because it is the first step to take towards fostering the growth of a responsible professional class and private enterprise. Nothing, I am convinced, retards architectural progress more than the present system under which any person who wants to erect a building, towards the cost of which he may expect a Government grant, can employ an ignorant draughtsman at a cost of a few rupees to get out a drawing, knowing that the design will have to be licked into shape in the Chief Engineer's office before it comes back with grant.

I would urge that it is politic to encourage private bodies to employ professional men; and when they do so, as in this case, to let the professional man take the responsibility and do the work for which he is presumably paid. I suggest that the present case affords an opportune moment for soliciting definite orders on this subject, and that when a design for which a grant-in-aid is solicited bears the name of a recognized professional man, the Government should absolve themselves from all responsibility for structural stability, and examine the design only from the points of view of (1) general suitability for the purpose intended, and (2) the amount of grant which they should contribute. Under (1) the Chief Engineer's office would naturally take into consideration any existing regulations regarding floorspace and ventilation: under (2) attention would be drawn by this office to any apparent extravagance in design.

One result of this would be that bodies who employ recognized professional assistance would get their cases through the mill much quicker than those who do not.

W. H. NICHOLLS—1-9-17.

Mr. Nicholls raises two points:—

(a) The general question as to the extent to which scrutiny should be applied to grant-in-aid buildings.

(b) How the present case should be dealt with in view of the Honourable Member's order, page / ante, and the usual practice—vide Educational note, page / ante. *on the same*

2. As regards the general question (a) it will be necessary to examine carefully all orders on the subject and the issues involved before putting the matter before Government. As this examination will take some time it is proposed to take up the question after orders on the particular case under reference have issued.

3. As regards the case under consideration, it is submitted that, if orders on it are to issue without further scrutiny of the plans and estimate, these orders should be worded as suggested by Mr. Nicholls at A page / ante. Further if no technical B scrutiny is applied the local Public Works Department officers must not be called upon to inspect the building during construction or to give advice. The whole matter must be left in the hands of the designer of the building. *3/*

In this case, it is impossible to scrutinize the design without going into all the features of the buildings, as, for instance, the foundation and walls supporting the towers form an integral part of the lower structure. It may also be pointed out that the plans are incomplete and if a scrutiny of the structural stability of the building is to be made we must call for detailed drawings of the towers and verandahs, sections and constructions of domes, walls of towers, projecting balconies, etc., being shown. The construction of the main staircase should also be shown. It may here be remarked that, from a casual inspection of the plans, the abutments to the end of verandahs appear weak, the walls supporting the towers to be of insufficient thickness, one side of the main tower appears to be inadequately supported and there is nothing to show that the foundations of the towers have been considered. If no scrutiny is made, it must be clearly pointed out in the order that the designs have not been examined for structural stability and that the designer must consider himself entirely responsible in this matter. The file may be seen by Educational prior to circulation to Honourable Member and Honourable Member (Financial).

D. MARSHALL—4-9-17.

It will take some time to arrive at a decision about the general question of "responsibility for structural stability" which has been raised by Mr. Nicholls and orders are now requested on the Sourashtra school building case. I agree entirely with what Mr. Nicholls has written, and I think Government's responsibility should begin and end with a donation of Rs. 50,000, the designer being solely responsible for structural stability.

S. B. MURRAY—5-9-17.

# HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Please see the draft order suggested by the Consulting Architect at A on page ante. According to that draft the grant is payable on "the due compliance by the school authorities with all the conditions prescribed in the Grant-in-Aid Code." The conditions are laid down in Articles 52 to 55 of the Code. During the progress of the work the officers of the Public Works Department should examine materials and take measurements and on its completion, the officer who examined the building should certify that the work has been completed in accordance with the approved plans and estimate or that the building is worth the amount on which the grant is claimed. The form of the certificate in use, however, provides only for the first alternative referred to above, namely, for completion in accordance with the approved plans and estimates. As this is not possible in the present case, the Executive Engineer will have to adopt the second alternative, namely, that the building is worth the amount on which the grant is claimed. There appears to be no objection to the issue of the draft in the form suggested by the Consulting Architect.

2. The Public Works Department proposes to circulate the file to the Honourable Members, Public Works Department and Financial.  
P.R.—6-9-17.

The disposal suggested by the Public Works Department initiates a departure from the usual practice. The object of the introduction of the professional scrutiny of the Public Works Department in these cases is to see that the grant which the Government sanction towards the building is not wasted on unsatisfactory and unsafe erections. In the present case doubts have been expressed in the Public Works Department Deputy Secretary's note on page above even as to the structural stability of some of the portions of the building proposed. Further from the portion marked B in the same note it seems to be contemplated that local inspection during construction will not also be carried out inasmuch as there was no technical scrutiny.

This is a factor which will be against the provisions of the Grant-in-Aid-Code. The

Public Works notes further assume that the designer, Mr. Pears, will be in charge of construction also. There seems to be nothing to show that the committee contemplate doing so.

2. For orders as to whether, as a special case, orders should issue as at A on page 3, technical scrutiny being dispensed with.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—6-9-17.



6 NOTES to G.O. No. 1188, HOME (Education), 15th SEPTEMBER 1917

The objection to A is this. The building is unnecessarily ornamental. Knock off the ornament. If the balance of the estimate is less than a lakh, we need sanction less than 50,000. The difficulty would be to ascertain the balance.

2. It has also to be verified if the building otherwise satisfies the Grant-in-Aid Code conditions.

3. But is not the situation materially modified by the Honourable Member (1)'s letter in reply to the Sourashtras which I saw in the press? Please put up a cutting.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—7-9-17.

A cutting is submitted.

P.R.—7-9-17.

Details are wanted to discriminate between the cost of the essential part of the building and the cost of the ornamental part. But it is possible to proceed on the cost of similar buildings on the accommodation provided.

But doubts are raised as to the structural stability of the design. Engineers differ but for the time being I think we should be guided by the opinion of the Government Chief Engineer in office.

If this be accepted, the estimate in question is not eligible for any grant.

Attention is invited to the Honourable Member (Financial's) letter. I am

The Secretary must not take things too seriously or overlook the possibility of irony. Of course the Sourashtras are not Brahmans, and the claim to be Brahmans is all moonshine.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—12-9-17.

not sure what the Honourable Member's intentions are. There are two excellent high schools (and colleges) in Madura—a mission college in Teppakulam and a "Madura College" near the railway station.

R.R.—10-9-17.

Subject to the Honourable Member (Financial's) observations. I agree to Rs. 50,000 : leaving further responsibility to the Sourashtras and their advisers : as under our usual system.

P[ENTLAND]—10-9-17.

I agree with His Excellency the Governor. Also with Mr. Nicholls and the Hon'ble Mr. Murray. I think there is no doubt that the methods of examining plans and estimate before aid is given have in the past been rather too complex.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—11-9-17.

A draft order embodying the Consulting Architect's suggestion at A on page ante is submitted for approval.

P.R.—12-9-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—12-9-17.

Article 51 (ii) of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

Should we not check if the design fulfills the conditions in the Grant-in-Aid Code regarding floorspace, etc.?

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—13-9-17.

Submitted that it is not essential that the point should be checked in this office since the Director of Public Instruction will satisfy himself on this point with reference to the strength of the school, the area of the class rooms, etc., as detailed in the application for grant which in this

case has not been submitted to Government and also because the point is covered by the condition mentioned in the draft order that the school authorities should comply with all "the conditions prescribed in the Grant-in-Aid Code."

P.R.—14-9-17.

The Director of Public Instruction looks to these things and submits the plans and estimates to Government only after satisfying himself on those points.

C.R.—14-9-17.

Issue.

R.R.—15-9-17.

[G.O. No. 1188, Home (Education), dated 15th September 1917.]





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