M.R.O. 1—88,400—22-11-90

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 589 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 1. 12. 1860.

3/3

B/no. 1-2

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,*
*1st December* 1860.

No. 3. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, dated 20th October 1860, No. 10,802.

Read letter from C. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the Civil Finance Commission, Fort William, Council Chamber, the 20th October 1860, No. 10,793.

Financial Department.

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 153, dated 12th instant, relative to the outlay incurred by Government for Punkahs, Coolies, Bheesties, Tatties, and other requisites for cooling offices in India.

2. In reply, I am desired by the Governor General in Council to remark, that Punkahs are quite essential to the health of persons employed in offices in Lower Bengal, except near the sea, and Tatties also where hot winds blow. The small comparative expense of Punkahs and Tatties in Madras and Bombay is owing to the number of stations which are either so elevated or so near the sea as not to require Punkahs or Tatties for more than a brief period in every year. But it would seem that the expense in Bengal, the North Western Provinces, and the Punjab, is enormous, and admits of reduction; and it appears to His Excellency in Council that both the Military and Civil Finance Commissions can aid in effecting a reduction.

3. Such reductions, however, cannot be carried out by mere uniform rules like those proposed in your letter under acknowledgment, which cannot possibly be applicable to all climates; and I am desired to request that you will call the attention of all local Governments and Administrations to the subject by a circular, and require returns from them showing the present expense and possible reductions.

4. These returns may enable you to suggest rules suitable to each variety of circumstance and climate. Meanwhile, your remarks on Tatties as used in Calcutta, and on the number of Coolies to each Punkah have been approved and should be acted on.

5. I am further desired to observe that both the Finance Commissions should furnish the Public Works Department with returns of the actual expense of Punkahs and Tatties in Barracks, Offices, and large Public buildings.

6. Mr. Orr, the Commission may be aware, has invented a mechanical contrivance now under trial in the Soldiers' Library in Fort William, which promises well, and which, he expects, will reduce the cost of Punkah-pulling by one-half. He says, the present cost is Rupees 8,000, per mensem in Meerut alone, and some 5 or 6 lacs per annum in all the stations occupied by the Bengal Army. Here, the Governor General in Council remarks, is probably room for reduction by substituting mechanical contrivance for manual labor. But no Punkahs or Tatties should be stopped in any Barrack, Hospital, or Office, till some equally efficient substitute has been provided.

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Ordered, that a copy of the above and of the one to which it is a reply be furnished to the Military Finance Commission, with a view to the necessary steps being taken by them with respect to the points referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the above letter.

* *Foreign, Home, Public Works, and Military Departments.*
† *Governments of Bengal, North Western Provinces, Punjab, Madras, Bombay, and Eastern Settlements.*
‡ *Accountant General to the Government of India, the Civil Auditor, and the Sub-Treasurer, Fort William, and the Mint Committee, Calcutta.*

Ordered, also, that a copy of the above letter be forwarded to the Departments,* Governments,† and Officers,‡ specified in the margin, for information.

(Signed) C. HUGH LUSHINGTON,
*Secretary to the Government of India.*

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No. 4. ORDER THEREON, 1st December 1860, No. 589.
Communicated to the Military and Public Works Departments.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
*Chief Secretary.*

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Order thereon 1st December 1865 No 589.

Communicated to the Military & Public Works Departments.

To the Military Dep.t
" Public Works

Dep.ts 1st "