M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue Board DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.		Press Mis. -
		98-99
Dated	9-12-	18 94.

7/8

S.R.M.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 98. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd October 1874, No. 3084 :—

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, South Arcot District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pondicherry, 24th August 1874, No. 78:—

At the request of the Virdachellam Local Fund Board, embodied in the resolution of which I enclose a copy, I have the honor to forward a copy of the Vice-President's letter of the 30th June last, No. 75, and, in forwarding it, I must express my regret that, though it reached me on the 3rd July, it has not yet been forwarded. The cause of the delay was an attack of illness which prevented me from attending to my official duties for nearly three weeks, and since then, owing to changes in my office establishment, the paper was lost sight of.

2. The Vice-President shows good reason in his letter for complaint on the part of the Virdachellam Board that the allotments for expenditure in that Circle are not nearly expended during the year for which made.

3. I have acted on his suggestion in paragraph 2 and addressed the District Engineer and requested him to send in to me, by the end of November, a list of the sums which cannot be spent within the official year, so as to admit of increased expenditure on sanctioned works and of increased establishments being entertained.

4. The manner in which twenty per cent. of the whole allotment for repairs during 1873-74 was brought to account as expenditure during the last month of the year is a matter which requires attention, and I shall bring it to the District Engineer's notice with a view to such a procedure being avoided in future, while the complaints of the delay in the submission of estimates appeared to be but too well-grounded. No doubt the explanation in great measure is that the department was so short-handed that delay was inevitable, but this only proves the necessity for increasing the establishment.

5. Lastly, with respect to the remarks in paragraph 16 of the Vice-President's letter, the only information which the Boards get of how their money is being expended by the Department of Public Works is contained in the abstracts of the Progress Reports submitted in accordance with Rule 79 of the Local Fund Rules. One copy of each Progress Report is sent to the President's Office from each Range, from which the abstracts are prepared and laid before the Local Fund Boards, but the information given in them is not sufficiently detailed to enable any check on expenditure to be exercised by the Local Fund Boards. As to contracts, none are ever sent to either Board for approval, and the explanation is perhaps to be found in the following extract from a letter from the District Engineer, in reply to one from me on the subject :—

"I have the honor to inform you that the Virdachellam Dispensary work has not been given out on regular contract, but that one Armooga Moodelliar and Co. were employed as suppliers; that the work given them is treated as task-work; and that hence no reference was made to the Local Fund Board." He adds that, "Prior to the receipt of my letter under reply, the Range Officer was also instructed that all buildings must be done departmentally, materials being purchased from or supplied by petty contractors."

6. The distinction drawn by the District Engineer seems to me rather a fine one. If Messrs. Armooga Moodelliar and Co. undertook to supply materials for the Virdachellam Dispensary, it may be presumed that they undertake to supply a certain quantity at a certain price, and within a certain time, and, as all the elements of a regular contract would under those circumstances be present, I cannot say I consider the District Engineer's explanation satisfactory. However, to prevent any misunderstanding on the point, it may perhaps be as well to order that all suppliers of material in excess of Rupees 20 in value shall sign written contracts (for which a simple printed form might be supplied), which should be forwarded to the Local Fund Board interested. Local Fund Members might then be able to observe the Contractors and the way in which they did their work, and bring any irregularity to the notice of the Range Officer and Local Fund Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Virdachellam Circle, dated 27th June 1874.

Read accounts of the Circle for the official year.

1. The Board observe that the balance on the 1st April exceeded one lakh, and they request the President to call the attention of Government to the fact that, out of Rupees 71,170 alloted by the Board for New Works, only Rupees 40,587 were spent during the last official year. The wants of the Circle are many and urgent, and the taxation is not in excess of them. The Local Fund Board is failing to benefit the Circle, simply because the money which the Board vote is not spent. As an instance of what the Circle suffers, with a large balance always in the Treasury, from long delays in the preparation of estimates and carrying out work, the Board ask the President to name the case of the bridge over the Khan Sahib Vaikal at Komarakshi. The bridge was washed away upwards of a year ago, and, as this road connects Mannargudi and Chellambram, the greatest possible inconvenience is experienced by the interruption of traffic. On the 30th June last, just a year ago, the Board requested the District Engineer to furnish a plan and estimate; but they have not yet been received.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. L. LISTER,
Vice-President.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From A. L. LISTER, Esq., Vice-President of the Local Fund Board, Virdachellam Circle, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards, South Arcot, dated Kullakurchi, 30th June 1874, No. 75.

IN forwarding a resolution of the Virdachellam Local Fund Board, which I request you to submit to Government in accordance with the wish of the Board, I have the honor to show, in the following statement, a list of seven new works on which the aggregate expenditure was only twenty-three per cent. of the allotments :—

	Allotment.	Expenditure.
	RS.	RS.
1. A Bridge over the Manimucktanady at Virdachellam ...	17,160	...
2. Constructing 22 Tunnels on the Salem frontier road	5,900	2,753
3. Forming a road from Kullakurchy to Sankarapuram	5,000	2,012
4. Constructing a Choultry at Teagadroog	3,500	992
5. Constructing a Civil Dispensary at Virdachellam	5,480	1,016
6. Constructing a Choultry at Mangalam	3,500	1,803
7. Constructing a Bridge on the 24th mile of the Virdachellam Cuddalore Road	2,300	1,376
	42,849	9,952

2. With regard to the first item, the short expenditure is due to the late date when sanction was received, *viz.*, February 13th; the money, however, was never surrendered. The Board were never informed that such a large sum would be wholly unexpended, and had, therefore, no opportunity of utilizing it. I would suggest that the District Engineer should, for the future, send to the Board a list by the 30th November of the sums which cannot be spent within the official year, and that the Local Fund Board should be empowered, with the concurrence of the President, to allot such sums to *sanctioned* works and to employ such additional establishment as the District Engineer may require, to enable the sums to be spent within the official year. This course might arrest the alarmingly progressive increase in our balances. When the District Engineer is absolutely

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9th December 1874.

unable to spend the money, the President might be authorized to employ "Other Agency," which, however, it is very difficult to improvise at a moment's notice.

BALANCES.	Road Fund Balance.	Total Balance.
	RS.	RS.
1st April 1872	19,614	26,946
Do. 1873	58,835	87,628
Do. 1874	67,749	1,08,040

3. In item No. 2, only 2,753 Rupees were spent out of an allotment of Rupees 5,900 voted on the 28th September 1872 on Colonel Foord's recommendation. The District Engineer submitted the estimates to the Local Fund Board on the 2nd August 1873, and they were passed on the 11th idem, submitted by the President on the 13th idem, by the Board of Revenue on the 15th October, and sanctioned by Government on the 24th November.

4. Now there was no delay with us; within twelve days of the District Engineer submitting the estimates they were passed by the Local Fund Board and submitted to the Revenue Board by the President. The great delay was with the District Public Works Department, who, after ten months' delay, sent the estimate with an addition of Rupees 75 to Colonel Foord's recommendation.

5. In item No. 3, only Rupees 2,012 were spent out of an allotment of Rupees 5,000. This money was voted in September 1872, and the estimate came and went with that of item No. 2; but in this case the estimate probably had to be entirely framed after the Board made the allotment in September. I think, however, there should have been more money expended in the four working months after sanction was received. The small expenditure in April (Rupees 145) forbids the supposition that any considerable amount of work was done within the year which was not paid for.

6. In item No. 4, only Rupees 992 out of 3,500 were expended; there was, I believe, some difficulty about the site. On the 26th February, thirty-three days before the close of the official year, the District Engineer addressed the Board for the first time about the site. The plan and estimate were sanctioned by Government on the 8th November 1873.

7. In item No. 5, only 1,016 Rupees out of Rupees 5,480 were spent. On the 29th June 1872 the Local Fund Board allotted 4,000 Rupees for this work. A plan and estimate were sanctioned by Government in the Financial Department on the 30th July 1873, thirteen months after the first grant. This sanction was suspended by an order in the Public Works Department of the 21st August, and the revised plan and estimate were finally sanctioned on the 13th March 1874, nearly twenty-one months after the Board allotted funds for the work.

8. In item No. 6, sanctioned by Government on the 8th November 1873, 1,803 Rupees were spent out of 3,500. Again, the late sanction is the cause of the short expenditure; but upwards of thirteen months elapsed between the date of the Board's allotting funds and the date of sanction, and this in the matter of a little choultry costing 6,400 Rupees.

9. In item No. 7, the sum of Rupees 2,300 was voted by the Board on Colonel Foord's recommendation in September 1872; an estimate for Rupees 2,100 and plan were sanctioned by the Board of Revenue in September 1873, just a year afterwards. Now we are promised a revised estimate, and told that materials are being collected; but I submit that in a small matter of bridging, at a cost of a couple of thousand rupees, a little stream which carries away the surface drainage of the high land for a mile or so round, a revised estimate ought not to be necessary; the required waterway should be easily ascertainable, and as ten months elapsed (September 28th, 1872, to August 2nd, 1873) between the date of allotment and the date of the submission of the plan and estimate by the District Engineer, the Board have a right to complain that the plan which was submitted is so faulty that it cannot be acted on.

10. With regard to the short expenditure on the Virdachellam Dispensary and Mangalam Choultry, I would ask your attention to the District Engineer's memorandum, No. 1303, of the 2nd February :—"The Local Fund Overseer does not seem to know what this year's allotments are

for the Dispensary and Mangalam Choultry, nor has he plans and estimates, etc., for either." It is impossible to dispute Mr. Norfor's proposition that "this is most unbusiness-like," and one might even go further and say that it "denotes a want of system and method."

11. It is not surprising that we suffer from short expenditure, if no one tells the Overseer what to spend or how to spend it. The plan and estimate for the Mangalam Choultry were sanctioned by Government on the 8th November, and should certainly have been in the Overseer's hands long before the 2nd February. The plan and estimate for Virdachellam Dispensary had not then been sanctioned.

12. I also beg your attention to the way in which ordinary work is either postponed to the end of the year or else not paid for at the time—a system which must lead to the Board being charged credit prices with a large balance always at hand; twenty per cent. of the whole allotment for repairs last year was brought into the expenditure column in March.

13. This year, I regret to say, has not opened with brighter prospects. In April only 145 Rupees out of 11,000 Rupees were spent on the Sankarapuram road, a work which Mr. Banbury wished to be pushed on. For the much needed tunnels on the Salem frontier road, only 304 Rupees were spent, while the expenditure on Mangalam Choultry was only 63 Rupees; and April and May, we are constantly told, are the best working months in the year, when any amount of labor is procurable, as nothing or next to nothing is being done in the fields.

14. With regard to the delay in the preparation of estimates, the Board wish you prominently to notice the case of a bridge over the Khan Sahib Vaikal. Just a year ago to-day, the Board asked for an estimate, and the delay, I believe, is in the Public Works Workshop at Madras; but the Local Fund Board have never asked to have an iron lattice girder-bridge; it will, I believe, be more expensive than a masonry bridge, and there is no knowing when we shall get the estimate. In the mean time complaints are loud and numerous about the immense inconvenience suffered by the break in the road between the important towns of Chellambram and Mannargudi.

15. I will cite another instance of delay. On the 30th July last, in Resolution No. 9, the Board requested the District Engineer to have an estimate prepared for levelling and constructing tunnels on the road already formed between Kosavampettai and Geveraput. I was away on leave at the time, but I am told this is a very small matter, and yet eleven months have elapsed without the required estimate being submitted.

16. The Virdachellam Local Fund Board is almost entirely ignorant of the way in which money is spent in the Circle; the members do not see the working estimates, and have no idea what becomes of the large sums allotted for the repair of the very indifferently-mended roads. Many works are done on contract, but not one single contract for work has been sent to be signed by the Vice-President and two of the members, although the Board, so long ago as the 27th July 1872, requested the Range Officer to observe that all contracts above Rupees 20 must be so signed, and of course it is needless to add that the Board have been wholly powerless to introduce the semblance of an economical charge into the administration of the Local Funds of the Circle.

17. The Board's one sole function is to allot funds, but if it cannot get estimates for the works it wishes to undertake, and cannot get its allotment spent after the wearisome waiting for plans, estimates, and sanction, I hope I may never be called to show cause why the Board should not be summarily abolished.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Vice-President of the Virdachellam Local Fund Board shows from the delay in preparing estimates and in executing sanctioned work that the staff of the Public Works Department in his Circle is too weak, and the balances are increasing steadily, whilst the development of the country requires that all the money that can be got should be spent. He complains that the Local Fund Board receive no notice of money which the Public Works Officers know they will be unable to spend on the works for which it is sanctioned, and should therefore surrender, long before the end of the year; that payment for work is needlessly deferred, so that the Local Fund Board have to pay credit prices whilst they have large balances in hand; and that they are kept ignorant of the way

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9th December 1874.

in which money is spent. He requests that the District Engineer may be required to send a list to the Local Fund Board by the 30th November of all allotted sums which he cannot spend within the year, and that the Local Fund Board may be empowered to reallot such sums to sanctioned works, and employ additional establishments to expend them.

3. The President has requested the District Engineer to send in to him, by the end of November, a list of the sums which he will be unable to spend within the official year. With regard to the control which the Local Fund Boards ought to have over expenditure, he suggests that all suppliers of material in excess of Rupees 20 in value should sign printed contracts, and that these contracts should be forwarded to the Local Fund Boards. It appears that in South Arcot the Public Works Department employ suppliers without requiring them to execute any contract.

4. The expediency of increasing the Public Works Establishment in South Arcot is represented in the papers recorded with Board's Proceedings, dated 8th September 1873, No. 1,776 (not yet disposed of by Government), and G.O., dated 28th April 1874, No. 716. It is no doubt under consideration.

5. The District Engineer should certainly inform the President from time to time of the amount of allotments which he cannot expend during the year. This is always done with regard to Imperial and Provincial allotments. He should also take care that payment for work done is not needlessly deferred.

6. The Board do not think it would be safe to give the Local Fund Board the power to reallot funds and entertain establishments on their own authority, which is proposed by Mr. Lister.

7. Mr. Garstin's observations on the subject of contracts are reasonable, and the Board think the District Engineer should be required to act in accordance with them. A form of contract prepared by the Government Solicitor has lately been circulated to all Presidents of Local Fund Boards. It is not "simple" in the sense of being short, but the Board are convinced it cannot safely be made shorter, and as the forms are to be kept in print this will not matter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 99. ORDER THEREON, 9th December 1874, No. 2065.

The expediency of increasing the Public Works Establishment in South Arcot, and the questions raised regarding contracts, will receive early consideration in the Public Works Department.

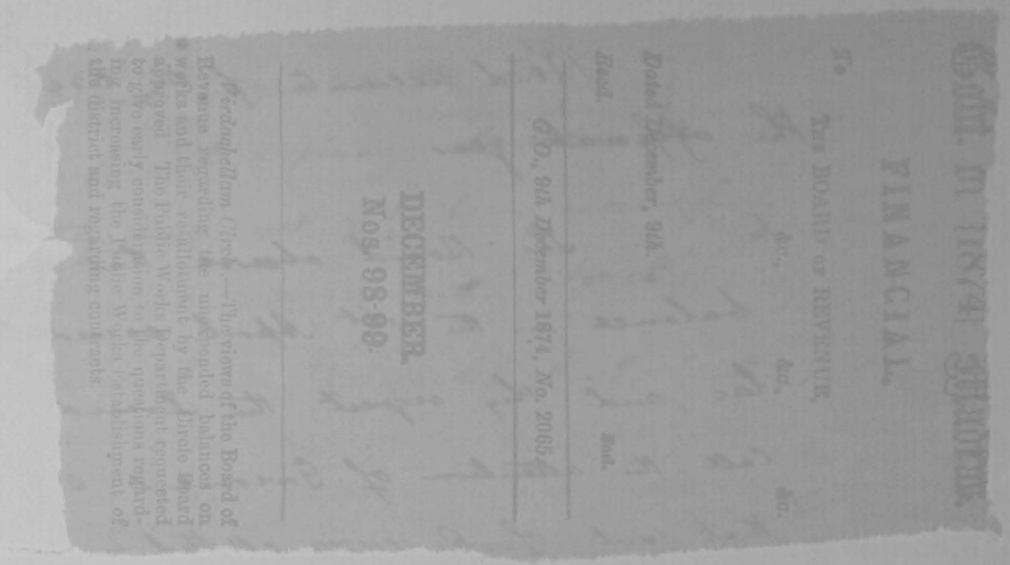
2. The views expressed by the Board of Revenue in paragraphs 5 and 6 of their Proceedings are approved.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, Public Works Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.



GOVT. OF INDIA.

FINANCIAL.

To THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c. &c.

Dated December, 9th

Read

G.O., 9th December 1874, No. 2065.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 98-99.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Vizagapatam Circle, dated 27th June 1874.

Read account of the Circle for the official year.

Ordered, that the Board observe that the balance on the 1st April exceeded one lac, and they request the President to call the attention of Government to the fact that out of Rs 91170 allotted by the Board for New Works only Rs 40587 were spent during the last official year; the wants of the Circle are many and urgent and the taxation is not in excess of them: the Local Fund Board is failing to benefit the Circle, simply because the money of the Board vote is not spent; as one instance of what the Circle suffers with a large balance lying in the Treasury from long delays in the preparation of Estimates and Carrying-out work the Board ask the President to name the case of the bridge over the Khan Saheb Vaikal at Komarakoliz the

the bridge was washed away upwards of a year ago, and as the road Connects Mannargudi and Chettambram, the Southern public communication is subjected by the interruption of traffic on the 3.rd June last - just a year ago, the Board requested the District Engineer to furnish a plan and estimate; but they have not yet been received.

(True Extract)

(Signed) A. L. Lister
Vice President

(True copy)

H Gardner
Secy.

Enclosure No 4

No 557/1/54

Financial Department
(Local Funds)

1874.

Board of Revenue

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD OCTOBER 1874, No. 3,

Dep^t 29 Oct^r 1874

Received 6th Nov^r 1874

OCTOBER.

No. 3,084. R. 2309

Allotments—for expenditure on work Virdachellam Local Fund Circle, South District.—Letter from President forwa copy of one from the Vice-President, st that these allotments are not nearly exp during the year for which they are mad that Local Fund Board receive no noti money which the Public Works Officers they will be unable to spend on the work which it is sanctioned, and offering sugge as to the way in which contracts above 20 I are to be given, submitted to Governmen remarks.

With order

Govt. of {187 } Madras.

Jud D.

G. O. 9 Dec, 1874, No. 2085.

Nos. 98-9

Vindachellum Circle the sums of the Bs of Rev regarding the unexpended balances on Works, & their re-allotment to the Circle Bs, approved – The P W Dept requested to give early Consid^n to the questions regarding encroachments on the P W Sites & of the Ds regarding Contracts.