

Financial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 773

Dated 7th Oct. 1895

INDEXED. 415

[Despatch Abstract.]

SUPPLY OF TENTS

Recording Proceedings, Revenue Department, sanctioning the -- to the officers of the Forest Department and prescribing, with remarks, the scale for the several officers concerned.

27-11-11-BI ✓
2-8-12 BI ✓
8-8-13 BI ✓
22-10-15 BI ✓
12-4-21 BI ✓
3-10-22 BI ✓

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
80	290		20-10-96				
CH 2520			1896				
80 674							

CORRENT NO. 2477
27th Sept
 Govt. of {1895} Madras.
 REVENUE.

G.O. 4900: 6. 1. 95
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 ORDER 8 7-10-95 No. 773.
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Issued
 Recd. *4/10/95*
 Encl.
 G.O., 7th September 1895, No. 616.

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*Note: Wray & Lucas have yet
 to be considered. apparently
 A. 4.*

CHIEF SECRETARY
 -1 OCT. 1895
 GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
 SEPTEMBER

Supply of Tents.

Sanctioning — to the officers of the Forest Department, and prescribing, with remarks, the scale for the several officers concerned.

WITH ORDER

7TH SEPTEMBER 1895, No. 616, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 16th March 1895, Forest No. 153 :—

Read—the following letter from E. D. M. HOOPER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Rajahmundry, 8th October 1894, No. 160-C :—

In forwarding, for the orders of Government, the accompanying note by Mr. Lodge, Deputy Conservator of Forests, in which he advocates the supply of Government tents to Forest-officers, I have the honour to express a hope that the Forest Commissioner may be able to secure for the department the redress of this real grievance.

2. Mr. Lodge's note deals with the matter so fully that I can add nothing to his and Mr. Mullaly's remarks, beyond testifying to the truth of the statement that officers like myself, who after serving under the Government of India have been involuntarily transferred to this Presidency, have sustained considerable pecuniary loss from having to purchase tents for ourselves and office and to pay for their full upkeep and carriage without being given any increased daily allowance or tentage on this account.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Office-note from F. LODGE, Esq., District Forest-officer, to the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle (through the Collector of Kurnool), dated Atmakuru, 13th September 1894.

I see from the papers that officers of the Public Works Department and Police have been supplied with tents by Government. I therefore request that the question of the supply of tents to Forest-officers may be re-opened and Government requested to do for the Forest Department what it has done for two * other departments.

* Three—Salt, Public Works Department and Police.
(Intld.) C. M. M.,
Collector.

2. In 1892, the Board (Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 454-A, dated 22nd August 1892) recommended that Forest-officers should be supplied with tents at Government expense; the various letters printed in the above Proceedings (or Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 1, dated 9th January 1893), and the Proceedings themselves, set forth the case for the department very clearly. The Government, in refusing to sanction tents, stated that the non-supply of tents to Forest-officers must be held to have been taken into consideration in fixing their pay, omitting to notice that the original travelling allowance granted to Forest-officers might have included the cost of tents, while the daily travelling allowances then recently introduced distinctly did not include it. But the pay of Forest-officers is uniform all over India, while it is admitted that the district charges in Madras are more extensive than in almost any other part of India; yet in many other parts of India, Forest-officers with smaller areas to travel over, and with less camping to do, are supplied with tents, while in no other part of India, I believe, is a Forest-officer compelled to keep a tent for the accommodation of a Government office.

3. In the same order, Government remarked that what the Board proposed was really an increase of salary to Forest-officers, for which there was no justification, and which, if granted to them, could not reasonably be refused to officers of the Revenue, Police and Survey Departments. Now that tents have been supplied to Department of Public Works officers (whose position is very similar to that of Forest-officers) and the Police, I submit that they cannot reasonably be refused to officers of the Forest Department.

4. Government further remarked that the circumstances of other provinces were possibly different to those of Madras, and therefore would not consider the fact that tents were supplied to Forest-officers in other provinces. In paragraph 7 of the letter from the Conservators of Forests, Madras, printed with Board's Proceedings, No. 1 of 9th January 1893, it is shown that the circumstances of this province do differ from those of other provinces to the disadvantage of Madras Forest-officers; this is the paragraph :—

"In the provinces under the Government of India, Forest-officers draw the same rates of travelling allowance as ours under the Civil Service Regulations, and have much smaller charges. In Bombay, Forest-officers retain the fixed monthly travelling allowances, which are drawn

throughout the year, and may be considered to include tentage. Forest-officers in Madras would therefore appear to be placed at a disadvantage in the matter of tents or tentage compared with those in other provinces."

5. In conclusion, Government suggested the erection of grass huts where rest-houses were not available, and stated that this was "a much better and cheaper plan than carrying tents." It will be many years before rest-houses are so numerous, that tents are seldom required; at present not 10 per cent. of the camps possess rest-houses, and at many camps, grass is not available, especially during, and immediately after, the fire-season. Supposing that an officer camps in sixty different places annually, and that at ten of these there are rest-houses; fifty grass hut

* Hut for District Forest-officer	Rs. 20
" for office	15
" for servants	15
Total	50

* this expenditure would recur annually, for many of the huts would be burnt down every hot weather and the survivors would be used as shelters for cattle, cowherds, wood-cutters, &c., rendering them unfit for habitation; if they escaped this fate, many would be pulled down either from sheer wantonness, or for the small timber used in their construction; even if they stood uninhabited for six months, they would not be habitable, for it is well known that such structures become infested with snakes as soon as they are left to themselves.

As tents would only cost Rs. 1,069 (one District Forest-officer and eight Range officers) per district, and would last for at least five years, grass huts cannot be said to be cheaper than tents, nor, for the reasons given above, can they be said to be better.

6. In order to show still more clearly, if necessary, that Forest-officers have even a better claim for consideration than other officers, I will briefly recapitulate what took place when their fixed monthly allowances were converted into daily allowances.

The fixed allowances were—

For Conservators	Rs. 200 a month.
" Deputy Conservators	150 "
" Assistant Conservators	120 "

Supposing that Forest-officers were in camp for 200 days per annum, their daily allowances for that period would have to be—

Conservators	Rs. 12
Deputy Conservators	9
Assistant Conservators	7-2

in order that their average annual travelling allowance might be the same as the fixed travelling allowance which they had hitherto drawn. Or, looked at in another way, the average travelling allowance earned during each month actually spent in camp should be—

Conservators	Rs. 369
Deputy Conservators	277
Assistant Conservators	221

I need hardly say that these sums are much in excess of the average travelling allowance actually drawn.

7. In converting the fixed monthly allowances of Civilians, the Board went most carefully into the subject; shortly afterwards, when the case of Forest-officers came under consideration, the Board saw no object in going over the details again, but suggested that Conservators (who then had ten districts to travel over) should receive the same daily travelling allowance as Collectors (who have only one district to travel over), Deputy Conservators the same as Sub-Assistant Conservators holding charge of districts should receive, provided that Deputy and rates; these rates were adopted. Shortly afterwards, a Forest-officer (Mr. Lushington, I believe) wrote an office-note pointing out that Forest-officers had not been allowed to have a word in the matter, and giving his views as to the inadequacy of the daily rates fixed; the office-note may be found in the Board's Proceedings communicating G.O., No. 296 R., dated 20th April 1889; in this order, Government recorded its opinion that "Forest-officers do not appear to be as well off as officers of corresponding grades in other departments," and consequently sought the sanction of the Government of India to raising the daily rates of travelling allowance for Deputy and Assistant Conservators by one rupee, and adding that if this proposal was sanctioned, the extra rupee per diem would be disallowed. The Government of India sanctioned the proposals of the Madras Government; the mouths of Forest-officers were closed, and they were left in exactly the same condition as before. At that time there was only one Assistant

Conservator not in charge of a district; the order of the Government of India gave him one rupee extra per diem. I submit that this could not have been the intention of either the Government of India or the Government of Madras; if the allowances of Forest-officers were insufficient before this order was passed, they are still insufficient, for they remain unchanged by the order, except as regards Assistant Conservators not in charge of districts.

8. To return to the method in which the rates of daily allowances were fixed. As stated above, they were based on the rates fixed for Civilians without entering into details. In fixing the rates for Civilians, the Board went carefully into every detail, extra furniture, extra servants, extra horses, extra breakages, &c., but they omitted all expenditure connected with tents, this being covered by the tentage drawn by Civilians. Thus the daily rates of travelling allowance for Forest-officers were based on calculations which carefully excluded the original cost of tents, their upkeep and carriage, pay of tent lascars, &c. These expenses probably were included when the monthly fixed allowances were first introduced, but now a Forest-officer in Bombay gets his fixed monthly allowance and a tent for his office, while a Forest-officer in Madras, to earn the same travelling allowance would have to stay in camp for 360 days in each year, and must supply his office with a tent at his own expense.

9. I have attempted to show that—

- (1) tents are now given to officers of other departments akin to the Forest Department;
- (2) the daily rates of travelling allowance are not equivalent to the old monthly rates which probably included cost and upkeep of tents; therefore the grant of tents or tentage would not be equivalent to increasing the salaries of Forest-officers;
- (3) grass huts would be more expensive than tents;
- (4) Government has admitted that the present daily rates are insufficient, and has not increased them;
- (5) the cost of tents, their upkeep, &c., were not taken into consideration when fixing the daily rates of travelling allowance;
- (6) Forest-officers in other provinces are better off.

With this I request that the letter from the Conservators, published at the commencement of Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 1, dated 9th January 1893, may be read, and I submit that a clear case for either increased travelling allowance, or tentage, or the supply of tents has been made out.

Forwarded with the request that this may be submitted to the Board with the Conservator's support

2. I consider a very strong case has been made out and trust that Forests will now be put on an equal footing with the Public Works Department, Police and Salt as regards tents. I enclose an extract of my letter No. 196-Eng., dated 30th January 1894, on the same subject.

(Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
Collector.

19th September 1894.

3. While on the subject of tents I would beg to draw the attention of the Board to the order in the Public Works Department, No. 3684-C, dated 7th November 1893, in which it is proposed to supply officers in the Public Works Department with tents according to the scale there given. Salt and Abkari officers have already been provided with tents. I venture therefore to propose that a similar consideration be shown to officers of the Police and Forest Departments, who are obliged to do, if anything, more camping than Public Works Department officers (the minimum touring of Forest-officers being eight months in the year) and like the Public Works Department and Salt officers draw no fixed tentage.

4. In other provinces Forest-officers have tents provided for them and get the same pay although their charges are smaller. The non-supply of tents to Madras Forest-officers cannot therefore have been taken into consideration when their rates of pay were fixed.

5. It appears to me that when Government requires its officers to visit places where there is no accommodation, it is the duty of Government to provide those officers with shelter from sun and rain. In places where there are no rest-houses, grass huts have been proposed as a substitute; the cost, however, would be greater. Grass huts at Rs. 20 each for, say, 50 camps per annum cost Rs. 1,000. They must be renewed annually owing to Chenchus and cowherds occupying all vacant ones and rendering subsequent occupation by European officers impossible. They are also frequently burnt.

6. I advocate the construction of a certain number of permanent rest-houses every year for the use of District officers. These after a few years would greatly reduce the necessity and wear and tear of tents.

(True Copy.) (Signed) C. M. MULLALY,
Collector.

19th September 1894.

Resolution—dated 16th March 1895, Forest No. 153.

Mr. Lodge's office-note with the Collector's endorsement thereon and the Conservator's covering letter will be submitted to Government with a request that it will be pleased to reconsider its Order, dated 5th December 1892, No. 1197, Revenue, disallowing the Board's strong recommendation that tents should be provided for Forest-officers at the expense of Government.

2. In negating the Board's proposal, the Government remarked that the non-supply of tents to Forest-officers must be held to have been taken into consideration in fixing the rates of their pay, and that if the concession recommended were granted to Forest-officers, it could not reasonably be refused to officers of the Revenue, Police and Survey Departments. * Mr. Lodge in his note, however, shows good grounds for believing that the non-supply to Forest-officers in Madras of tents which are supplied to Forest-officers in most other parts of India cannot be held to have been taken into consideration when the rates of pay were fixed, and the other ground assigned by

Government for refusing supply no longer holds good as it has recently been decided to allow tents to officers of the Public Works * and Police † Departments, while Revenue officers draw a special tentage allowance.

3. For the above reasons, therefore, the Board begs to recommend that its proposal contained in paragraph 8 of its Proceedings, dated 22nd August 1892, Forest No. 454-A, may now receive the favourable consideration of Government. The supply of the tents, when sanctioned, will be arranged for through the Inspector-General of Jails agreeably to Government Order, dated 17th September 1894, No. 2259, Judicial.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) L. M. WYNCH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Conservators.

ORDER—dated 7th September 1895, No. 616, Revenue.

Forest No. 252.

His Excellency the Governor in Council, on reconsideration of the orders contained in G.O., dated 5th December 1892, No. 1197, is pleased to sanction the supply of tents to the officers of the Forest Department, and, in modification of the Board's proposal, to prescribe the following scale for the several officers concerned:—

Conservators.	Approximate price.
1 Hill tent with bath-room (14' x 14')	RS. 425
1 Shooting-pal (12' x 12')	236
2 Servants' tents (12' x 12')	122
1 Necessary tent (4' x 4')	33
Total	816

District Forest-officers (except those on the West Coast).

1 Hill tent with bath-room (12' x 12')	340
1 Shooting-pal, bamboo poles (10' x 10')	140
1 Servants' tent (10' x 10')	55
1 Necessary tent (4' x 4')	33
Total	568

District Forest-officers of Malabar and South Canara.

	Approximate price.
1 Miniature Swiss cottage (bamboo poles, 3 folds cloth) (10' x 10').	RS. 190
1 Shooting-pal, bamboo poles (10' x 10')	140
1 Servants' tent (10' x 10')	55
1 Necessary tent (4' x 4')	33
Total	418

Range Officers.

1 Shooting-pal, bamboo poles (10' x 10')	140
1 Servants' tent (10' x 10')	55
Total	195

It should be clearly understood that the pals proposed to be given to Forest-officers are "shooting" and not "sleeping" pals.

2. As regards the purchase, supply, upkeep, transfer, &c., of the tents, the instructions and observations contained in paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 5 of G.O., dated 8th May 1895, No. 957, Judicial, a copy of which is printed as an appendix to this order, should *mutatis mutandis* be considered to apply to the case of Forest-officers, the "Madras Forest Code" being substituted for the "Police Order book" referred to in the latter Government order.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" the Financial Department.
" the Inspector-General of Prisons.
" the Accountant-General.

APPENDIX.

Read—the following G.O., dated 8th May 1895, No. 957, Judicial:—

Read—again the following paper:—

G.O., dated 11th August 1894, No. 1925, Judicial.

ABSTRACT.—Expressing the opinion that superior Police officers should be supplied with tents at the cost of the State, and requesting the Inspector-General to submit, in consultation with the Inspector-General of Prisons, an estimate of the cost of supplying Police officers with suitable jail tents.

Read—also the following papers:—

From the Inspector-General of Police, dated 5th December 1894, No. 7153.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting a statement of the cost of supplying jail-made tents to superior Police officers, and recommending their supply, or in lieu thereof the grant of a fixed monthly tentage allowance.

Reference, dated 26th March 1895, No. 657.

ABSTRACT.—Particularizing certain tents and enquiring of the Inspector-General of Police whether he considers any of them too heavy for use in Malabar, South Canara and the Hill tracts.

From the Inspector-General of Police, dated 10th April 1895, No. 2193.

ABSTRACT.—Replying that he does not consider any of the tents particularized too heavy.

Order—dated 8th May 1895, No. 937, Judicial.

Of the three courses mentioned in the Inspector-General's letter, dated 5th December 1894, the Government considers that the most desirable is that which contemplates the supply of tents at the cost of Government. There will be no necessity to purchase them for the whole body of officers at once; the scheme should be introduced gradually, a beginning being made by supplying tents to officers returning from furlough, and thus presumably without them. Tents thus supplied would for the future belong to the offices to which such officers were first appointed, subsequent incumbents of which would not need to provide tents of their own.

* * * * *

3. The prices specified in the foregoing list are those at which it is believed it will be possible to purchase the tents at the Vellore Jail, from which Government desires that all such supplies should be obtained. The Inspector-General of Prisons will be able from these data to furnish a complete specification of the tents prescribed, which should be embodied in the "Police Order" book.

4. The Circular Orders of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue) contain useful instructions with regard to the upkeep of tents, transfer thereof, &c., and the Inspector-General of Police might perhaps with advantage embody portions of them in the Police Order, a draft of which should be submitted to Government. In the meantime the Inspector-General of Police may proceed with the supply of tents on the above scale up to the limit of the budget provision.

5. It will, of course, be understood that Government has no intention of supplying lascars for the care and pitching of tents. Officers must make their own arrangements in this respect, as they have done in the past with respect to their own tents.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Police.
" Inspector-General of Prisons.
" Financial Department.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO G. NO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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