

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

CURRENT No. 230
 Govt. of {1895} Madras.
 LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Order
 Mis 7/11 4th October 1895 No. 812.

Recorded.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 14th Sept. 1895, No. 1686 L.

SEPTEMBER.

Allotments for Communications.

Ordering, with remarks, that not less than one-half of the estimated income from land-cess plus the anticipated net receipts from tolls should be allotted for communications in the local fund budgets.

14TH SEPTEMBER 1895, No. 1686 L., LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—dated 14th September 1895, No. 1686 L., Local and Municipal.

The attention of His Excellency the Governor in Council has recently been attracted to a tendency upon the part of local boards, which appears to be wide-spread and on the increase, to reduce the allotments made in their annual budgets for the maintenance and repair of communications to sums which are clearly insufficient to keep the roads in that condition which their great importance to the community demands.

2. The causes which have contributed to this tendency are not difficult to trace. The receipts of local boards are mainly derived from the land-cess collected under Act V of 1884, and this is, in most districts, an almost constant quantity, increasing only with extension of cultivation or revision of settlements. Their expenditure, on the other hand, exhibits a continual liability to increase, the intellectual and material progress made by the community and the growing interest which has of recent years been awakened in education, in medical relief and in sanitation in rural tracts calling for a higher standard of administration and more and more funds. The strain thus put upon the inelastic revenues of the boards has had necessarily to be met by eventual retrenchment under one head or another. Allotments once made for educational needs, for medical relief and for the improvement of sanitation seldom appear at first sight to be easily susceptible of reduction, for a considerable proportion of them is usually appropriated to the payment and maintenance of establishments and institutions which have come to be regarded as permanent. Allotments for roads, however, differ widely from these, for they are not the special care of a separate department of Government; they can be reduced without difficulty; and the effect of the reduction does not make itself immediately apparent by a corresponding retrogression in their condition, and cannot at any time be accurately gauged by controlling authorities from statistics.

3. The retrenchments which have been forced upon the local authorities have accordingly been effected, in the majority of cases, in the annual grants for the upkeep of the highways, and there is much reason to fear that a general deterioration in their condition has resulted.

4. To permit this deterioration to continue would be to eventually involve the local boards in very heavy expenditure, for the sum required to restore a neglected road to its former condition is usually far greater than the total of the annual allotments which would have been necessary to prevent it from falling into disrepair. The Government is accordingly of opinion that it is necessary to take action to ensure that the communications in the Presidency shall henceforth receive such grants as will be sufficient to restore them to, and maintain them in the state which their importance demands.

5. Under the repealed Local Funds Act (IV of 1871) it was compulsory upon local boards to spend the net proceeds of all tolls and not less than two-thirds of the land-cess upon the communications within their charges, but in the Act now in force no minimum limit has been prescribed. The Government is unwilling to lay down any rules which might in any way retard the advance of education or hinder the extension of medical relief or of sanitation in rural tracts, but it is at the same time compelled, in the exercise of its duties and powers of control, to ensure that all branches of the work now done by local boards are treated with equal fairness and consideration and to prevent the charges under any one of them from increasing to the detriment of the interests served by the others.

6. The Presidents of all district boards will accordingly be informed that the Government considers that the minimum that should be allotted in each district board's budget under Communications—New Works and Repairs, should be a sum equal to one-half of the estimated income from land-cess *plus* the anticipated net receipts from tolls. The amount at present allotted under these heads is less than this limit in all districts but five, and it will probably be difficult in some cases to provide the minimum in the budgets for 1896-97 without some dislocation of the work now going on under Grants II and III. The Government will not insist, therefore, upon the immediate attainment of the standard now prescribed, but it desires that steps to this end should be begun at once when the budgets for the ensuing year are drawn up, and that a gradual advance should be maintained so that at the end of three or four years' time, the limit allotment shall have been provided in every district in the Presidency.

7. In submitting their annual budgets, all Presidents should report the action that has been taken to follow the instructions now issued, and, where complete compliance with them has not been possible, to explain fully the causes which prevented it.

(True Extract.)

W. R. A. S.
for Chief Secretary.

To all Presidents of District Boards.
 „ all Collectors.
 „ the Educational Department.
 „ the Director of Public Instruction.
 „ the Sanitary Commissioner.
 „ the Sanitary Engineer.
 „ the Public Works Department.
 „ the Financial Department.
 „ the Accountant-General.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
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DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
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Financial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 812

Dated 11th Oct. 1895.

INDEXED 3/4

[Despatch Abstract.]

ALLOTMENTS FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Recording Proceedings, Local and Municipal Department, directing, with remarks, that no less than one half of the estimated income from land-cess plus the anticipated net receipts from tolls should be allotted for communications in the local fund budgets.