

Financial (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 690

Dated 30.8.97

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Procs., Edl. Deptt.,
passing orders on the plans
& estimates for the Victoria
Students' Hostel Submitted
by the Madras Students'
Hostel Committee.

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30 July

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The A.G. (G) Form

G.O., No. 400, 15th July 1897.

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Victoria Students' Hostel.

Passing orders on the plans and estimates for the — submitted by the Madras Students' Hostels Committee, approving of the proposal to build at first about a half of the residential part of the hostel, with kitchens and warden's quarters, and promising to forego the Public Works Department charges for establishment, &c., amounting nearly to Rs. 26,000 and to supplement by an equal amount the public subscriptions that may be received to make up the further deficiency, but directing that the construction of the building should not be proceeded with pending further orders.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 521, Educational, dated 25th August 1896.

Read—the following letter from the Honorary Secretaries, Students' Hostels Committee, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 21st June 1896:—

In approaching Government on the subject of the Victoria Students' Hostel, we cannot but express our regret that it has not been found possible to make more progress with the scheme in the two years that have elapsed since the order of Government specifying the site allotted for the building. It was hoped, when in March 1895 His Excellency Lord Wenlock was invited to lay the foundation stone of the hostel, that we should be able to begin building at an early date. During the vacation, however, Mr. Stone, who had just been appointed Joint Honorary Secretary, devoted considerable attention to the plans that had been drawn up from the points of view of the suitability of the proposed building to the purpose in view, and of the economical spending of the money entrusted to the committee, and as the result of his investigations presented to the committee a memorandum embodying the following main suggestions:—

(1) that the hostel should be built, for not less than 200 students, because, taking a reasonable estimate of the rates of board and lodging that students might be expected to pay, a hostel for fewer students could only be worked with considerable probability of the funds available for upkeep (servants, porter, office, taxes and repairs) proving insufficient;

(2) that the plans should be remodelled with a view both to efficiency and economy.

2. The committee in the main adopted Mr. Stone's memorandum as a basis for its further action and Mr. Irwin, at its request, undertook to prepare new plans. He retired from the service of Government without having done so, and Colonel Rawson took the work in hand, and prepared three pencil sketches in accordance with Mr. Stone's suggestions and with the assistance of plans of the students' residential portion of the Fergusson College, Poona, which was built very cheaply and has proved very well adapted to its purpose. These plans were sent to His Excellency Lord Wenlock at his Lordship's request, and after some correspondence with the Chief Engineer, were referred to the Hon'ble Mr. Grose who at Mr. Stone's request placed them at the disposal of the committee.* At a meeting of the committee held on the 13th April 1896, they were exhaustively discussed and various minor alterations with a view to economy were suggested. Of these the committee accepted the following: (1) to place the clerk's office in the ground floor of the warden's house adjoining his study; (2) to build only two bed-rooms on the first floor of the warden's house, leaving a terraced roof over the study and office; (3) to omit the passage to the warden's kitchen; (4) to reduce the width of the verandahs in the residential part of the hostel to 5 feet 6 inches; (5) to lower the rooms in the same part on the first and second floors by 2 feet and 1 foot, respectively. The sketch plans marked No. 1 and No. 3 and the estimate marked No. 3 revised, with an exception to be noted below, will therefore explain the views of the committee as to the building that it is desirable to construct. Plan No. 1 is useful only for the elevation, which is subject to modification (5). Plan No. 3 is subject to modifications (1)–(4). The kitchens, dining rooms, &c., will be in accordance with Mr. Irwin's plan but on a larger scale.

* See papers returned marked "urgent."

3. It will be seen that the estimates, excluding Rs. 40,133 under the head of Public Works establishment charges, which we venture to hope Government will not charge to the committee, amount to Rs. 1,63,809 for a building to accommodate 204 students with a library, kitchens and dining rooms and latrines, and a house, kitchen and stables for the warden, and a house for a porter or similar official. The maximum funds at the disposal of the committee amount to Rs. 88,942, made up of Rs. 63,942 promised by the Maharaja of Vizianagram and the general public, and Rs. 25,000, the contribution of Government. Rs. 74,867 are therefore wanting to complete the building on the proposed plan.

4. To meet this difficulty the committee proposes to limit its immediate aims to building about half the residential portion of the hostel and the whole of the kitchens* and the warden's residence, leaving the remainder of the residential part, the library, a house for the porter and the warden's stabling till more funds are available. It would probably be possible to arrange for the duties of "porter" being discharged by one of the subordinates attached to the College of Engineering, who live in the married quarters close to the hostel site, and arrangements might be made for the warden utilizing the Presidency College stables pending the completion of the design.

* The committee think this desirable, because the same number of separate kitchens and dining rooms will be necessary for the smaller, as for the larger number of students.

5. To execute even this portion of the work, however, the funds at present at the disposal of the committee will not suffice, as the following statement shows:—

	RS.
Residential part of hostel (one-half)	47,343
Warden's residence (including clerk's office and kitchen)	22,994
Dining rooms, &c.	19,557
Gates and roads	2,000
Water-supply	800
Contingencies at 5 per cent.	4,635
Total	97,329
Funds available	82,942
	14,387

6. Consideration of Colonel Rawson's revised plan has led the committee to think that its suggestion to leave the first floor of the warden's residence incomplete was a mistaken one, and it therefore proposes to allot to the warden's residence and kitchen Rs. 25,175, the sum specified in the unrevised estimate No. 3, raising the total cost of the work proposed to be undertaken at once by Rs. 2,290 (building Rs. 2,181, contingencies Rs. 109) and therefore leaving a deficiency of Rs. 16,672.

7. Before proceeding further we cannot but invite a comparison of this estimate of Rs. 99,619 with that originally arrived at by Mr. Irwin of Rs. 1,32,380. The number of students to be accommodated is nearly the same in the two cases. Mr. Irwin's estimate provides for a library at about Rs. 10,000, but allows nothing for contingencies which at 5 per cent. would add about Rs. 5,000 to his total, while the present estimate provides for kitchens, dining rooms, &c., for 204 students at an additional cost for the extra 108 students of Rs. 6,514. The present estimate consequently shows a saving of about Rs. 33,000.

8. In round numbers Rs. 17,000 more than is at present available will be needed to carry out the limited proposals detailed above. The committee hopes that the commencement of building operations will be itself a stimulus to increased subscriptions, as there are many generous men throughout the Presidency who have held back from this movement owing to the fact that hitherto no visible and tangible evidence is forthcoming to show that the hostels are to be a reality. The committee is therefore convinced that it may issue renewed appeals for public support with confidence of success, as soon as, but not before, building operations have made substantial progress.

* Being less by Rs. 6,000 than the total of contributions promised, because that sum was promised by Mr. G. Subroyulu Chetty for the express purpose of providing a library.

9. It will be observed that the above calculations are based on the assumption that Government will be pleased to waive the Public Works establishment charges at 24½ per cent., which on the amount proposed to be immediately expended would be more than Rs. 24,000, an additional expense which would leave the committee in a deficit of Rs. 41,000, since while there is reasonable hope that Rs. 17,000 might be obtained by subscriptions while the buildings are in course of erection, the committee would hardly be justified in beginning to build in the hope of realizing Rs. 41,000 before the completion of the work.

10. If these anticipations of the committee of the generosity of Government and the public are realized, and the proposed portions of the plans herewith submitted are carried out, there would still remain the question of the completion of the buildings, involving the following expenditure:—

	rs.
Residential portion of hostel (one-half)	
Library	47,343
Warden's stabling	11,845
Gate Superintendent's lodge	1,127
Contingencies at 5 per cent.	3,000
	3,165
Contributions promised for library	66,480
	6,000
	60,480

This again is exclusive of Public Works establishment charges which, it is hoped, that Government will be pleased to waive here also.

11. The committee, convinced as it is, of the utility of building the portion of the hostel detailed above, would deplore the long postponement of the completion of the design. Useful as the hostels will be in providing cheap and good board and lodging for students, the committee hopes very much more from them than this. They may be expected to take a leading part in that development of our educational system on European Public School and College lines which has already been initiated by the establishment of hostels in connection with certain missionary institutions. The building for which the committee is now submitting plans has been designed with careful reference to the social and disciplinary aspects of college life, and as long as it is incomplete, the committee's aims can only be incompletely realised. It has consequently anxiously considered the question of how to raise this large sum of Rs. 60,000.

12. Mr. Stone, in his memorandum already referred to, has suggested that borrowing should be resorted to. The obvious difficulty in the way of this course, is the provision of security, since the committee's sole property will consist in buildings erected on land vested by Government in trustees for a particular purpose. Even if this difficulty could be overcome, however, there are strong reasons against resorting to this expedient. If the hostel realised surplus revenues, these could be much better employed in enlarging and improving it (by, for instance, providing for additional supervision), than in paying interest and contributing to a sinking fund. It is also probable that the public would more willingly contribute funds for the completion of the building than for the repayment of a loan. It has been suggested that the university should be asked to contribute to the hostels either by way of loan or gift. The objections to borrowing would be as strong in the case of the university as in that of any other creditor, as it is clear that in the present state of university finances that body would not be justified in risking any of its capital. The Act of Incorporation so explicitly limits the function of the university to the encouragement of learning by the grant of degrees on examination, that it is extremely doubtful whether the university could legally make any gift to the hostels, and it is practically certain that, in the present state of its finances, and bearing in mind that the hostels are, by the Memorandum of Association,* primarily for mofussil students, it would in any case be unwilling to make any grant.

* Vide Memorandum of Association as revised in accordance with the orders of Government, Section 3 (a).

13. In these circumstances the committee is of opinion that it must rely on the generosity of the public and of Government for the gradual completion of the buildings, and begs to suggest that, in order to encourage subscribers to come forward, Government should offer to supplement the future subscriptions of the public by an equal amount. In support of this suggestion it will be remembered that Government has given half grants for educational buildings in several special cases, and that the hostels are educational institutions in every way deserving of similar assistance. The committee has in view other means of stimulating subscriptions, among which may be mentioned naming rooms, or blocks of rooms, after donors of large sums, and assigning prior right to hostel rooms to students from Native States, and districts of the Presidency, in numbers proportionate to the contribution from each.

14. Although we have, with a view to clearness, treated the immediate carrying out of a portion of the building, and its final completion, as two separate objects in view, we have no intention of ear-marking any portion of our funds for one or the other purpose, and we think it very desirable that should Government adopt our suggestion of a half grant-in-aid of subscriptions, that it should come into force at once. In this case there is reasonable probability of our being able to complete an even larger portion of the building, without a suspension of work, than we have above laid down as the essential minimum.

15. It is doubtless unnecessary to reiterate the importance of commencing work with as little delay as may be, and the committee has therefore the honour to request that Government will be pleased, as a step towards giving effect to its order of 26th June 1894, No. 471, Educational, to pass speedy orders on the revised memorandum and articles of association of the Madras Students' Hostels already submitted,* and to empower the Consulting Architect to prepare full plans and estimates based on the pencil sketches Nos. 1 and 3 and the estimate No. 3 revised.

* Vide our letter of 21st April 1896.

Order—Mis. No. 521, Educational, dated 25th August 1896.

The Government desires that, before proceeding further, complete and detailed plans and estimates of the cost of the hostel, of which a drawing is given in "revised sketch No. 3," should be prepared. The Public Works department will be accordingly requested to issue the necessary orders. The preparation of these plans and estimates should be carried through as early as possible, and every endeavour should be made to keep the amount of the estimate within the lowest practicable limits.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
" Honorary Secretaries, Students' Hostels Committee.

READ—also the following paper:—

From the Honorary Secretaries, Madras Students' Hostels Committee, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated 22nd February 1897.

We have the honour to submit herewith plans and detailed estimates for the Victoria Students' Hostel, drawn up by the Consulting Architect to Government in accordance with G.O., No. 521, Educational, dated 25th August 1896, and rough estimates made by Mr. Irwin and Colonel Rawson.

A comparison of the amount of these estimates with that of the rough estimate made by Colonel Rawson and taken as the basis of the proposals of the committee in our letter, dated 21st June 1896, seems at first sight to indicate that those proposals

require modification, as Mr. Harris's estimates amount to Rs. 2,25,274, or excluding establishment charges at 24 per cent., to Rs. 1,80,942 as against Colonel Rawson's rough estimate of Rs. 1,73,561 excluding the same charges. Mr. Harris, however, informs us that, under the heads of contingencies and petty supervision, which, according to the practice of the Public Works department, are charged at 5 per cent. and 2½ per cent., respectively, he anticipates a saving of, probably, as much as Rs. 10,000 due to the extreme detail in which the estimates have been prepared, and the nearness of the site to his office which will make it possible for him and his staff to make very frequent visits to the works while in progress. If Mr. Harris's anticipation is anything near realized and Government accedes to the committee's request to waive its claim to establishment charges, the actual sum required for the completion of the building will be in round numbers Rs. 1,71,000 or Rs. 2,500 less than Colonel Rawson's rough estimate.

In these circumstances the committee ventures to request that Government will be pleased to pass very early orders on our letter of 21st June 1896 and on the draft conveyance submitted with our letter, dated 26th October 1896.

ORDER—No. 400, Educational, dated 15th July 1897.

With the letter read above the Honorary Secretaries of the Madras Students' Hostels Committee submit the plans and detailed estimates for the Victoria Students' Hostel, which were called for in G.O., No. 521, Educational, dated 25th August 1896.

2. The plans are suitable and meet with the approval of Government. The estimates amount to Rs. 2,25,274; but only a sum of Rs. 82,942, inclusive of the donation of Rs. 25,000 promised by the late Maharaja of Vizianagram, is at present at the disposal of the committee and a sum of Rs. 1,42,332 more is required for the construction of the whole of the buildings. The committee therefore proposes to build at first about a half of the residential part of the hostel, with kitchens and warden's quarters, and to leave the remainder of the work to be completed when funds are available. To complete even this portion of the work, which it is proposed to take in hand first, a sum of nearly Rs. 48,000 is required and the committee asks that the Government will forego the Public Works department charges for establishment and plant amounting nearly to Rs. 26,000 and will supplement by an equal amount the public subscriptions that may be received to make up the further deficiency of about Rs. 22,000. The Government is pleased to accede to these requests but cannot hold out any promise to make the same concessions towards the completion of the remainder of the work.

3. The plans and estimates will be transferred to the Public Works department; but the construction of the building should not be proceeded with pending further orders.

4. In conclusion the Government desires to express its appreciation of the thoroughness with which the committee has worked out the project and to thank Mr. Stone especially for the attention which he has devoted to it.

(True Extract.)

J. Harris
for Secretary to Government.

To the Honorary Secretaries to the
Madras Students' Hostels Committee.
" Public Works Department.
" Financial Department.
" Director of Public Instruction.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

[G.]
25
500-17-5-07.

C. No. 23/5

SUBJECT

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.
Sir Henry
THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.
THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

Victoria Students' Hostel

FOR ORDERS.

Res 7

From G.O. No. 205 dated
30th March 1894, it will appear
that Government promised to
contribute Rs. 25,000 to each of
the ^{two} hostels proposed to be
built in Madras. In the current
read above, connected with
the construction of the Victoria
Students' Hostel the committee
proposed to build ^{complete} only a portion
of the work as all the necessary
funds for the construction
of the whole of the buildings
are not available. Rs. 82,942
only are stated to be at its
disposal; and as nearly Rs. 48,000
more are required to complete the
portion of the work, the
Committee have asked for
further assistance from Govt.
Accordingly

Accordingly Govt. has re-
linquished the P.W.D charges
for establishment and plant
amounting to nearly Rs 26,000
and has consented to supple-
ment by an equal amount
the public subscriptions that
may be received to make up
the further deficiency of
about Rs 22,000. Thus Government
is committed to two grants
of Rs 25,000 and 11,000 in aid
of this hostel. The first is
provided for already in the
budget, the amount being in-
cluded in the sum of Rs 80,000
shown on page 143 of the Civil
Estimates under 22 Education
Miscellaneous. The second will
not be required until the
construction of the building
is proceeded with, and this
is dependent on the payment
of the contribution of Rs 25,000
promised by the late Raja
of Vizianagaram. Provision
for the second contribution
of Rs 11,000 promised in the
current year above may
therefore

25,000
11,000
36,000
22,000

therefore be made in the
next year's budget. In case
it is required within the
current year the amount
may be paid from the
sum of Rs 25,000 included
in the budget for the
second hostel in Madras
which is not likely to be
taken in hand for sometime
to come. The provision of
Rs 30,000 for the Kumbakonam
hostel will probably be
required during the year.

C.S.

The paper may therefore be
Order W. 690 & 30 Augt '97
Min. Recorded.

Cud 26/8/97
29/8/97

Acct. Genl. (S. & H) 2/9/97

B.C. To see that this order is
brought up with Est. Board
Cud this year

AB
2/9/97

(which is the revised in Est.
Est. Clerk: B. S. S. S.)

MA
3/9/97

2/9/97

When given for copying
When copied
When examined 11/19 1897
When signed

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. 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
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
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