

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. 32

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Government { 1897 } of Madras. PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd. 5-1

Regd. 5-1

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies



G.O., No. 3491 W., 15th December 1897.

DECEMBER.

Order W. 55 & 21 Jan 98

Comm. to the Act Genl

Cms 16/1/98 12/9.1.98

Acct Genl (rs. 50/-) Dec 97

Fire-Engines

Directing that the — at Government Houses, Madras, Guindy and Ootacamund, be brought on the books of the Public Works Department, in view to the cost of their repair being borne by that department; authorizing the Examiner to accept the debit of Rs. 125-2-7 on account of pipe hose supplied from the Arsenal to the Government House; and approving the suggestion that the manual fire-engine at Government House, Madras, be dispensed with.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

READ—the following papers:—

From F. C. HARRISON, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department, dated 13th October 1897, No. 3175.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, copies of correspondence noted in the margin regarding the incidence of the cost of fire-engine pipes hose supplied to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras for use at the Government House, and to request orders as to the department which should bear the charge in question. The charge resembles a charge for insurance of a building and I am inclined to think that the Public Works Department should bear it. If not, it should be debited either to 45. Civil works or to the contract allowance of the Governor. I cannot gather from the papers who initiated the present expenditure. If the expenditure is held to be debitable to the Public Works Department, then, these articles should, with the engine, be entered on the Public Works Department books.

ENCLOSURES.

From F. C. HARRISON, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General, Madras, to the Comptroller-General, Calcutta, dated 25th August 1897, No. 2599.

I have the honour to submit the following case for orders:—

In the Madras Military exchange account for December 1896, a sum of Rs. 125-2-7 being the cost of fire-engine pipes hose supplied to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras by the Madras Arsenal was debited to the Civil Department, and the voucher duly countersigned by the above officer was forwarded in support of the debit.

On a reference to the Military Secretary enquiring under what head of account provision was made for the above charge, he reported that the fire-engines and their appurtenances have hitherto been supplied to the Government Houses at Madras and Guindy and Ootacamund, apparently free of cost, and that charges on account of their supply have not hitherto been met from the contract allowance. The Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to whom a reference was made, stated that the fire-engines were not borne in his books and that, therefore, the cost of the fire-pipes hose was not debitable to the Public Works Department. The Controller of Military Accounts thereupon, on a further reference, stated that the engine was issued by the Ordnance Officer, Madras Arsenal, for use at Government House and that information regarding the department to which the cost of the engine was originally debited could not be afforded, as the transaction is not traceable from his records as far back as 1885, the records prior to that year having been destroyed. He further stated that the articles referred to were issued by the Ordnance Department in replacement of others found unserviceable and that, therefore, the cost has been correctly debited to the Civil Department.

I have the honour to enquire whether the above charge should be borne by the Military or Civil Department. If the latter department is to bear the charge, I presume the cost must be debited to the contract allowance of His Excellency the Governor of Madras.

From O. T. BARROW, Esq., Officiating Comptroller-General, Calcutta, to the Accountant-General, Madras, dated 8th September 1897, No. 1146.

With reference to your letter, No. 2599, dated 25th ultimo, regarding the incidence of the cost of fire-engine pipes hose supplied to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, I have the honour to state that, agreeably to article 95, rule VII of the Civil Account Code, the charge in question should be accepted by the Civil Department. I request you will settle the question as to whether the charge should be debited to the contract grant of His Excellency the Governor of Madras in communication with the local Government and, if necessary, the Government of India.

From F. C. HARRISON, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General, Madras, to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, Ootacamund, dated 18th September 1897, No. 2888.

Adverting to your letter, No. 94, dated the 17th of March 1897, I have the honour to forward, herewith, a copy of this office letter, No. 2599, dated 25th August 1897, to the address of the Comptroller-General, Calcutta, and that of his reply, No. 1146, dated 8th September 1897, regarding the incidence of the cost of fire-engine pipes hose supplied for the use of the Government House and to enquire whether you will accept the charge against the contract allowance of the Governor to which it appears to be debitable.

2. The favour of an early reply is requested.

From Major F. W. ROMILLY, D.S.O., Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, to the Accountant-General, Madras, dated Ootacamund, 23rd September 1897, No. 293 (a).

With reference to your letter, No. 2888 of the 18th of September 1897, I have the honour to inform you that the charges borne by the contract allowance of His Excellency the Governor are clearly defined and do not include the maintenance or security of Government buildings.

I am unable, therefore, to accept the charge in question as a debit against the contract allowance.

Endorsement No. 2145, Financial.

Referred to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) A. R. KNAPP,
Acting Under Secretary.

15th October 1897.

No. 4388 C.

Referred to the Consulting Architect for favour of early report as to whether the fire-engines at Government Houses, Madras and Guindy, are in his charge, and if not, whether he sees any objection to their being brought on the books of the Public Works Department.

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

28th October 1897.

From G. S. T. HARRIS, Esq., Consulting Architect to Government, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepāk, 16th November 1897, No. 2180.

In returning the papers received with your endorsement, No. 4388 C., dated the 28th October 1897, I have the honour to report that the small manual fire-engines at Government Houses, Madras and Guindy, are not in charge of this division. There is no objection to their being brought on the books of the Public Works Department; I do not, however, consider that the one at Government House, Madras, is now required for the following reasons:—

There is a well-equipped steam fire-engine in D/1 Police station which was built a few years ago, within the compound of Government House, and is separated from it by a wooden fence. There is a gateway in this fence through which steam fire-engine can be taken in for operation just as quickly as the small manual fire-engine can be

brought into play. It will not be necessary to have fire-plugs in the compound as there is a tank and swimming-bath close by. There is also a large iron tank on Government House, measuring $20' \times 13' \times 3\frac{1}{2}'$, with a capacity of about 5,600 gallons, which is always kept full of water. The tank is filled by a lift and force pump which takes 8 or 10 men to work and fills in 7 hours. The tank is placed on the top of the terrace and commands all the main building, with additional hose; it would command also the Private Secretary's office and kitchen block.

The manual fire-engine at Guindy should, I consider, be retained as there is no other fire-engine in the vicinity. There is also on the top of Government House here, an iron tank about the same capacity as the one at Government House, Madras, kept always full of water which can be utilized in case of fire.

No. 4879 C.

Transferred to the Financial Department, and the referred papers returned.

2. There is no objection to the fire-engines at the several Government Houses being brought on the books of the Public Works Department, and to the charge mentioned by the Accountant-General being adjusted in the accounts of this department.

3. If the papers be transferred to the Public Works Department, the necessary orders will be issued, and His Excellency's instructions taken as to the disposal of the manual fire-engine at Government House, Madras.

19th November 1897.

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

From the Financial Department, dated 29th November 1897, No. 2603.

ORDER—No. 3491 W., dated 15th December 1897.

His Excellency the Governor in Council directs that the fire-engines at Government Houses, Madras, Guindy and Ootacamund, be brought on the books of the Public Works Department, which department will bear the cost of their repair and the renewal of component parts.

2. The Examiner is authorized to accept the debit of Rs. 125-2-7 referred to by the Accountant-General.

3. The Government approves the suggestion of the Consulting Architect that the manual fire-engine at Government House, Madras, be dispensed with. The Consulting Architect will transfer it to some other public building where it is likely to prove useful, or sell it at his discretion.

(True Extract.)

Summary

dy Under Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Architect to Government.

" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

" Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.

" Financial Department.

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Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

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When copied 21-1 } 1898
When examined
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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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