Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (MISCELLANEOUS)

G.O. No. 119, 27th January 1921

Passport

Fees—Collection by court-fee labels from 1st April 1921.

BACK PAPERS.

1,000—27-9-20.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

NUMBER OF COPIES. { Letter. / Order.

Government of Madras

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Fees—Collection by court-fee labels from 1st April 1921.

READ—the following papers :—

I

G.O. No. 1460, Public, dated 8th October 1915.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to district officers the revised passport regulations forwarded by the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, with their letter No. 1448-G., dated 25th August 1915, and issuing a press communiqué publishing the rules for general information.

G.O. No. 1249, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 26th July 1920.

ABSTRACT.—Enhancement of passport fees—Government of India instructions recorded.

II

Letter—from C. P. SKRINE, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department.

To—the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dated—Simla, the 27th June 1920.

No.—1366-G.

I am directed to enclose for your information and guidance copies of the marginally-cited correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of Bombay on the subject of the simplification of procedure for the collection of passport fees.

Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. P.C. 515, dated 29th March 1920, with enclosure.

Letter to the Government of Bombay, No. 1230-G., dated 8th June 1920.

2. I am to say that the Government of India leave it to the discretion of local Governments and Administrations to adopt the new procedure or to retain that prescribed in rule 8 of Passport Regulations, 1915, as they think fit.

3. I am to add that if the system of collection of fees by postage or court-fee stamps is adopted, the stamps should in the case of applications for fresh passports be affixed by the applicant to Form A, and in the case of applications for renewal of expired passports, to Form E. The stamps should be defaced by the Passport Officer when signing the passport.

ENCLOSURES

(1)

Letter—from J. CRERAR, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department.

To—the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department.

Dated—Bombay Castle, 29th March 1920.

No.—P.C. 515.

I am directed to state that the Government of Bombay have had under consideration the procedure to be followed in collecting passport fees. At present the Passport office of this Government is receiving fees amounting to two or three thousand rupees a month, and no adequate check has so far been adopted for ensuring that these fees shall be duly credited to Government. The Government of Bombay have considered the possibility of arranging that

the Passport office should affix an adhesive court-fee or postage stamp to the passport itself this stamp to be defaced by the Passport Officer on signing the passport. Such a system would afford the Passport Officer a complete check on the fees received in the Passport office, but it is open to serious objections from the practical point of view. The Passport office deals with several thousand passports a month. Some of these passports are applied for through the post; others by personal application at the Passport office. If these fees are to be converted into stamps in the Passport office, two or more extra clerks will have to be employed on this duty alone. Even then great inconvenience will be experienced by the public, as whenever an applicant up-country fails to forward the fee, it will be impossible, until the fee is recovered from him, to send the passport to the District Magistrate for delivery to him on payment, as is the practice at present. As too many applicants are in the habit of postponing applications to the last moment, cases will occur in which applicants will miss their ships in circumstances which will give them serious grounds for complaint against the cumbrous methods of the passport office.

2. In these circumstances the Government of Bombay have consulted the Government Bengal and a copy of the reply of that Government is attached. It will be seen that the Government of Bengal require that court-fee or postage stamps shall be affixed to the declaration forms by the applicant when filling up the form before a certifying officer. The Government of Bombay consider that this system is the best solution of the problem, but that to prevent inconvenience it would be desirable that the stamps required should not be either postage stamps or court-fee stamps, but should be postage stamps only, and that a place for affixing the stamps should be provided on the declaration and renewal forms themselves, such space being overprinted with an explanatory note. I am therefore to enclose declaration and renewal forms showing the manner in which this Government would propose that the space and note be provided, and to suggest that should this proposal meet with the approval of the Government of India, such forms may be printed in this manner in future.

3. In conclusion I am to say that as the revenue from postage stamps is purely Imperial, the Government of Bombay would ask for a compensatory assignment from the Government of India if the system described above were adopted. This question however can be considered later if or when the system proposed has been approsed by the Government of India.

Sub-enclosure.

Letter—from the Additional Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
Dated—the 9th/10th March 1920.
No.—P.P. 606.

With reference to your letter No. P. C. 515, dated the 25th February 1920, I am directed to say that in this Presidency passport fees are recovered by means of court-fee or postage stamps which are attached to the declaration forms by the applicants. Court-fee stamps are generally used on declarations filed before District Magistrates and postage stamps on those filed before the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, but there is no rule on the subject. All stamps are defaced in the Passport office of the Local Government.

2. Formerly the fees used to be paid in cash and deposited in the local treasury, the chalan being attached to the application but this system was abandoned in June 1917 as being cumbrous. As the revenue from postage stamps goes to the Government of India and that from court-fee stamps is divided, the Local Government loses by the change but as the loss is small the question of compensating the Local Government has not been raised.

3. The majority of applications in Bengal are made to the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta. The Passport Section of his office keeps a stock of one-rupee postage stamps for the convenience of applicants. A similar practice was at one time in force at the Passport office for the convenience of those who applied direct to the Local Government but it was discontinued last year. Applicants are now requested to purchase the necessary stamps at the Secretariat Post Office.

(2)

Letter—from C. P. Skrine, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India the Foreign and Political Department.
To—the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department.
Dated—Simla, 8th June 1920.
No.—1230/G.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. P.C. 515, dated the 29th March 1920, regarding the procedure to be followed in collecting passport fees.

2. I am to say that the Government of India have no objection to passport fees being recovered by means of court-fee or postage stamps.

III

Letter—from M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao Avargal, Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.
To—the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department.
Dated—the 5th August 1920.
No.—3387-2.

I am directed to invite a reference to your letter No. 1366-G., dated the 27th June 1920, regarding the collection of passport fees and to state that this Government have decided to adopt the new procedure of collecting these fees by means of stamps. They are in favour of using postage stamps and are of opinion that it would be more convenient to affix these to the passports instead of to forms A and E as suggested by the Government of India.

As the revenue derived from postage stamps is purely Imperial, I am to inquire whether the Government of India will be prepared to give a compensatory assignment to this Government, in case the above system is adopted. I am to point out that, under the existing rates, the fees realized from passports, renewals, endorsements and visas amount to nearly Rs. 1,000 per mensem on an average and that this income will further increase when the enhancement of the rates of fees for passports and renewals sanctioned in Government of India's letter to the Bombay Government, No. 1487-G., dated 15th July 1920, is given effect to. The Governor in Council considers that this Government cannot reasonably be expected to forego this income which is by no means negligible.

IV

Letter—from C. P. Skrine, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department.
To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.
Dated—Simla, the 8th September 1920.
No—1938/G.

With reference to your letter No. 3387-2, dated the 5th August 1920, I am directed to say that in their letter No. 1366-G, dated the 27th June 1920, the Government of India left it entirely within the discretion of local Governments either to adopt the use of stamps, postage or court-fee, for the purpose of collecting passport fees or to continue receiving such fees in cash.

2. The impending change in the crediting of stamp revenue will, from the date of the introduction of the new financial arrangements between the Imperial and Provincial Governments, permit of local Governments exercising this discretion without their revenues suffering any corresponding diminution.

3. In the meantime I am to say that the Government of India are not able to accede to the wishes of the Madras Government by granting to them an assignment. The Local Government may, if it desires, postpone the change of procedure until stamp revenue becomes a completely provincial head.

4. I am to add that if the system is adopted, the stamps should be affixed to the application and not to the passport form.

Order—No. 119, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 27th January 1921.

The Government direct that, with effect from the 1st April 1921, passport fees shall be collected by means of court-fee labels affixed to the applications for the grant, renewal or endorsement of passports and for the visa of foreign passports.

2. The Publicity Officer is requested to issue a news slip on the change of procedure. The Collector of Madras, all District Magistrates, the Resident in Travancore and Cochin and the Political Agents for Pudukkōttai, Banganapalle and Sandur are also requested to give it wide publicity.

3. If for any reason fees are received in cash they should be converted into court-fee labels and affixed to the application. In order to meet such contingencies a separate stock of court-fee labels of suitable denominations should be kept in all offices where applications for passports are received, with a separate account of their expenditure.

4. Officers authorized to issue passports should, before signing the passports, satisfy themselves that court-fee labels equivalent in value to the proper amount of fee to be collected have been affixed to the applications and should deface them so as to prevent their being used again.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

R. Ramachandra Rao,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Madras.
,, all District Magistrates.
,, the Political Agents for Pudukkōttai, Banganapalle and Sandur.
,, the Resident in Travancōre and Cochin.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Publicity Officer.
,, the General Officer Commanding, 9th (Secunderabad) Division (with C.L.).
,, the American Consul, Madras (with C.L.).
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,, His Britannic Majesty's Consul for Pondicherry.
,, the Persian Consul, Madras (with C.L.).
,, the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
,, the Financial Department (with copy of notes).

Home (Miscellaneous) Department.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 119, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS), DATED 27th JANUARY 1921.

[Subject.—*Passport fees—Collection of—.*]

From the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, No. 1366-G., dated 27th June 1920.

The procedure obtaining in this Presidency is that prescribed in rule 8 of the Passport Regulations printed on page 5 of G.O. No. 1460, Public, dated 8th October 1915. Very rarely stamps, either postage or court-fee, are used in payment.

2. The Government of India while approving the new method proposed by the Government of Bombay, leave it to the discretion of the local Government to decide whether the existing practice is to continue or whether the fees due may be collected in the shape of stamps. The new method involves, as pointed out by the Government of Bengal, a certain amount of pecuniary loss to Government. The Bengal Government are prepared to overlook this but the Bombay Government propose to ask for a compensatory grant from the Government of India. So far as the Madras Government are concerned, it is observed that the fees realized from passports, visas and endorsements amounted to Rs. 975 per mensem on an average during March, April and May 1920. The new method will doubtless provide an effective check on the proper crediting of passport fees to Government. In view, however, of the appreciable loss that will be caused by the acceptance of stamps, it is for consideration whether any change in the existing procedure is necessary.

For orders.

R.D.M.—9-7-20. S.A.—12-7-20.

I do not see why we should change the procedure and lose money.

W. S. Brown—13-7-20.

Is not court-fee stamps to become wholly Provincial in the immediate future?

2. In almost every other country, I see stamps on the passports are used. Here I have to keep a separate register and to guard against embezzlement is a nuisance. I would welcome the system if it involves no loss. But I would prefer to affix the stamp on the passport. The difficulty pointed out by Bombay does not often occur here.

B

R. Ramachandra Rao—13-7-20.

Paragraph 1 *of Secretary's note.*—Submitted 'yes'.

'*B*' *in paragraph* 2.—It is submitted that court-fee stamps are comparatively larger in size than postage stamps and that some passports submitted for visas or endorsements may not contain sufficient space for affixing the court-fee stamps.

S.A.—14-7-20. W.S.B.—15-7-20.

I have always grave doubts whether the money received in office is being properly credited and I should not be surprised if one day it is found that the money leaks. To save this, I welcome the proposal.

2. In the case of the passports I have seen, the fee is generally affixed on the passport by the Consuls. I think that we may adopt the procedure.

3. We must now instruct all officers issuing passports to adopt this procedure: also all officers sending up passports to send up a label. To save time, even if the label be omitted to be sent, we can purchase the label here if the receipt of fee be certified.

4. When I sign the passport, I shall check if the label is there and deface it.

5. If Honourable Member approves, I shall issue necessary instructions.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—16-7-20.

Please give Financial an opportunity of commenting.

L. D[AVIDSON]—17-7-20.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

The present practice is for the passport office to receive fees in cash and credit them to Government at the local treasury. It is now proposed to adopt a simplified procedure by asking the applicants to pay the fees in the form of stamps affixed to the passport.

2. The fees received by this Government for the issue of passports, visas and endorsements are said to amount, on an average, to Rs. 975 per mensem or Rs. 11,700 per annum. The Bombay Government propose to use only postage stamps and to ask the Government of India for a compensatory assignment as the revenue from postage stamps is purely Imperial. But it will be seen that the Government of India in their reply say nothing about a compensatory assignment, and they are not likely to give an assignment to Madras if the proposal is adopted.

Because Bombay say the matter will be considered later.

J.M.H.—26-7-20.

3. With effect from 1921-22, court-fee stamps will be wholly Provincial, but the difficulty is that it is not easy to get court-fee labels. The following procedure may perhaps be adopted :—

(1) All applicants for passports may be instructed to affix a court-fee label to cover the fee ;

(2) If any applicant omits to do this, the office receiving the passport should receive the fee in cash and affix a court-fee label for the value ;

(3) For this purpose, passport offices should have a stock of court-fee labels with a separate account ;

(4) The officer signing the passport should, before signing it, satisfy himself that the necessary stamp has been affixed and he should deface the stamp.

4. If this system is approved, it may be given effect to from 1st April 1921, so as to avoid a loss to Provincial funds in the meanwhile. The Home (Miscellaneous) Department may also be requested to consult the Accountant-General before issuing orders.

T.A.S.—25-7-20.

I think postage stamps would be more convenient and we may at once ask India if they will give us an assignment if we introduce the use of such stamps for passports. If they refuse we can introduce court-fee stamps from 1st April 1921.

J. M. HOOPER—26-7-20. R. A. GRAHAM—28-7-20.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

For orders whether the Government of India may be addressed as suggested by the Financial Department. If so, the draft submitted is for approval.

R.D.M.—2-8-20. S.A.—3-8-20.

Secretary and issue.

W. S. BROWN—4-8-20.

Issue.

I shall consider later on the rules proposed in Financial.

R.R.—5-8-20.

[Issued as letter No. 3387-2, dated 5th August 1920.]

From the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, No. 1938-G., dated 8th September 1920.

The Government of India say that they cannot give a compensatory assignment if stamps are used in the collection of passport fees. The only course now left is to collect the fees by means of court-fee stamps and to postpone the introduction of the change till the 1st April 1921 when the revenue derived from court-fee stamps will be wholly Provincial.

2. The Government of India insist that the stamps should be affixed to the application and not to the passport itself. If this course is adopted a difficulty will arise when there is no formal application and passports are presented in person for renewal or endorsement, as is often the case in the case of applicants at the Secretariat. In such cases it would be necessary to obtain from the applicant a formal application and have the stamp affixed thereto.

W.S.B.—21-9-20.

3. As regards the mode of collection the rules proposed by Financial in their note on page 2 ante appear to be unobjectionable. For orders.

R.D.M.—18-9-20. S.A.—20-9-20.

How are these instructions to be made known ? By separate rules pasted on the back of application forms ?

W. S. BROWN—21-9-20.

The Publicity Officer may be asked to issue a news slip and in the order which will be communicated to all District Magistrates, they may also be asked to give wide publicity to the order.

2. The contents of the order may also be printed on small slips and pasted on to application forms a supply of which is generally made to all District Magistrates from the Secretariat.

S.N.P.—23-9-20. S.A.—23-9-20.

Court-fee stamps may be used from 1st April and the procedure suggested by Financial may be adopted. Publicity may be given as suggested above.

W.S.B.—23-9-20.

I agree (1) that court-fee stamps be used, (2) that the change be given effect to from the 1st April.

The labels will have to be affixed to the application forms.

Regarding rules, let publicity be given as suggested above. If the applicants affix the label, well and good. If not, the forwarding officer (Commissioner of Police, District Magistrates or Resident, Travancore and Cochin) should utilise the cash to buy a stamp and affix. Similarly when money is received in the Secretariat. Regarding suggested rule (4), a circular is necessary ; it affects not only me but also the Collector of Madras and in the case of passports to the Straits Settlements certain other Collectors. I would draft a circular.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—28-9-20.

A draft order is submitted. If approved it may be sent to the Financial Department for acceptance.

S.N.P.—30-9-20.

[The order alone may be communicated to the addressees.]

S.A.—1-10-20.

I doubt if it is advisable to issue this or at least give publicity to it until much nearer 1st April next year. Otherwise there is certain to be confusion.

W.S.B.—2-10-20.

I agree: call book 10th January next.
R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—4-10-20.

Submitted.

P.R.G.—10-1-21. S.A.—10-1-21. J. A. DEROZARIO—12-1-21.

Draft for acceptance.

R.R.—14-1-21.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Please see Financial note, dated 28th July 1920, at page 2 ante. It was suggested (1) that passport fees may be collected by means of postage stamps and as this would be an Imperial receipt an assignment to cover the loss entailed to Provincial funds may be asked for from the Government of India, and

(2) that if the Government of India refused an assignment, passport fees may be collected by means of court-fee stamps which will be wholly Provincial from 1921-22.

The Government of India have refused to give an assignment for adopting the suggestion in (1) above, but have left it to the option of the Local Government to adopt the suggestion in (2) above.

2. Fees for registry of passports will, with effect from 1921-22, be "*Imperial*". It will therefore be advantageous to Provincial funds to adopt the method proposed in (2) above.

A provision of Rs. 22,000 has been included in the *Imperial* estimates for 1921-22 under Miscellaneous—Fees for Registry of Passports on account of passport fees. This provision will have to be deleted and a corresponding amount included in the Provincial Estimates under IV. Stamps. The necessary intimation may be given to the Accountant-General. The Home (Miscellaneous) Department may be requested to furnish very *urgently* a copy of the proceedings in this case with a copy of this department notes, as Accountant-General will have to intimate to the Government of India the alteration in the *Imperial* estimates in the second edition of his budget notes due with India on 6th February 1921.

3. The draft order may be accepted.

C.R.S.—20-1-21. J. M. HOOPER—21-1-21. R. A. GRAHAM—23-1-21.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

For orders as to issue.

S.A.—25-1-21. J.A.DER.—26-1-21.

After issue, circular instructions will be considered.

R.R.—26-1-21.

L. D[AVIDSON]—26-1-21.

[G.O. No. 119, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 27th January 1921.]

Passport.

Scott. II-10 (a)—35,106—9-2-20.

Home (Mis) DEPARTMENT.

Fees – Collection by court fee labels from 1st April 1921.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 1460 Public, dated 8. 10. 15
" " " " 1249 Home (Misc). 26. 7. 20

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 3387, From the Govt of India. F & P. Dept, No. 1366 G, dated 27. June 1920.
" " Letter No 3387-2 Home (mis) " " 5 Aug 1920.
" " 4222 " " Govt of India F & P Dept " 1938 G " 8 Sep 1920.

ORDER.

No. 119, dated 27 Januy 1921.

PRESS.

Issue in mss to the A.G. & Fin. Depg
[signature] 27.1.21.

Copied [initials] 27.1.21.

The Government direct that with effect from the 1st April 1921 passport fees shall be collected by means of ~~in the shape of~~ court fee labels ~~, which shall be~~ affixed to the applications ~~received~~ for the grant ~~of~~ ~~passports~~, ~~their~~ renewal ~~and~~ or endorsement of passports & for the visa ~~of and the vising~~ of foreign passports.

2 The Publicity Officer is requested to issue a news slip on the change of procedure. The Collector of Madras, all District magistrates, the Resident in Travan-

core and Cochin and the Political Agents for Pudukottai, Banganapalle and Sandur are also requested to give it wide publicity ~~to it~~.

3 ~~If the fee is received in any special cases in cash by any officer, he shall convert the cash into court fee labels and have them affixed to the applications.~~ In order to meet such contingencies a separate stock of court fee labels of suitable denominations ~~shall~~ should be kept in all offices where applications for passports are received, with a separate account of their expenditure.

If for any reason fees are received in cash they should be converted into court fee labels & affixed to the application.

4 Officers authorised to issue passports ~~shall~~ should, before signing the passports, satisfy themselves that court fee labels ~~of~~ of value equivalent to value to the proper amount of fee to be collected have been affixed to the

applications and ~~shall~~ should deface them so as to prevent their being used again.

SKP
30.IX.20.

[illegible] 1.10.20.

[illegible] 2/10/20.

[illegible] 14/1/21

DESPATCHED 22/1/21 to AG & Finl. with draft notes
for AG & Finl. only
27/1/21

To

The Collr. of Madras
All D.M's 25.2.21. 25/2. 3.21.
The Pol. Agents for Pudukottai
Bang. & Sandur
The R.T.E.G. (Q.S.O.)
The Publicity Officer
The G.O.C. Comdg. 9th Sec. Dn. with C.L.
The American Consul, Madras
The French Consul, Madras
The Italian Consul, Madras
The Swiss Consul, Bombay
The Consul for Netherlands, Madras
The H.B.M's Consul for Pondicherry
The Persian Consul, Madras) with C.L.
The Commr. of Police, Madras.
" Financial Dept. (One) (with copy of Finl notes)

DESPATCHED
2-MAR.1921 with C.L. & notes

G.O. No. 119, 27th January 1921

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(By order of the Governor in Council)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Madras.
" all District Magistrates.
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" the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Publicity Officer.
" the General Officer Commanding, 9th Secunderabad Division, (with C.L.).
" the American Consul, Madras, (with C.L.).
" the French Consul, Madras, (with C.L.).
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" His Britannic Majesty's Consul for Pondicherry.
" the Persion Consul, Madras, (with C.L.).
" the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
" the Financial Department (with copy of Financial notes).

Proof of G.O. submd. for approval.

14.2.21

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No.—P.C. 515.

I am directed to state that the Government of Bombay have had under consideration the procedure to be followed in collecting passport fees. At present the Passport office of this Government is receiving fees amounting to two or three thousand rupees a month, and no adequate check has so far been adopted for ensuring that these fees shall be duly credited to Government. The Government of Bombay have considered the possibility of arranging that the Passport office should affix an adhesive court-fee or postage stamp to the passport itself, this stamp to be defaced by the Passport Officer on signing the passport. Such a system would afford the Passport Officer a complete check on the fees received in the Passport Office, but it is open to serious objections from the practical point of view. The Passport office deals with several thousand passports a month. Some of these passports are applied for through

the post; others by personal application at the Passport office. If these fees are to be converted into stamps in the Passport office, two or more extra clerks will have to be employed on this duty alone. Even then great inconvenience will be experienced by the public, as whenever an applicant up-country fails to forward the fee, it will be impossible, until the fee is recoveed from him, to send the passport to the District Magistrate for delivery to him on payment, as is the practice at present. As too many applicants are in the habit of postponing applications to the last moment, cases will occur in which applicants will miss their ships in circumstances which will give them serious grounds for complaint against the cumbrous methods of the Passport office.

2. In these circumstances the Government of Bombay have consulted the Government of Bengal and a copy of the reply of that Government is attached. It will be seen that the Government of Bengal require that court-fee or postage stamps shall be affixed to the declaration forms by the applicant when filling up the form before a certifying officer. The Government of Bombay consider that this system is the best solution of the problem, but that to prevent inconvenience it would be desirable that the stamps required should not be either postage stamps or court-fee stamps, but should be postage stamps only, and that a place for affixing the stamps should be provided on the declaration and renewal forms themselves, such space being overprinted with an explanatory note. I am therefore to enclose declaration and renewal forms showing the manner in which this Government would propose that the space and note be provided, and to suggest that should this proposal meet with the approval of the Government of India, such forms may be printed in this manner in future.

3. In conclusion I am to say that as the revenue from postage stamps is purely Imperial, the Government of Bombay would ask for a compensatory assignment from the Government of India if the system described above were adopted. This question however can be considered later if or when the system proposed has been approved by the Government of India.

Sub-enclosed.

Letter—from the Additional Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
Dated—the 9th/10th March 1920.
No.—P.P. 606.

With reference to your letter No. P. C. 515, dated the 25th February 1920, I am directed to say that in this Presidency passport fees are recovered by means of court fee or postage stamps which are attached to the declaration forms by the applicants. Court-fee stamps are generally used on declarations filed before District Magistrates and postage stamps on those filed before the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, but there is no rule on the subject. All stamps are defaced in the Passport office of the Local Government.

2. Formerly the fees used to be paid in cash and deposited in the local treasury, the chalan being attached to the application but this system was abandoned in June 1917 as being cumbrous. As the revenue from postage stamps goes to the Government of India and that from court-fee stamps is divided, the Local Government loses by the change but as the loss is small the question of compensating the Local Government has not been raised.

3. The majority of applications in Bengal are made to the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta. The Passport Section of his office keeps a stock of one rupee postage stamps for the convenience of applicants. A similar practice was at one time in force at the Passport office for the convenience of those who applied direct to the Local Government but it was discontinued last year. Applicants are now requested to purchase the necessary stamps at the Secretariat Post Office.

(2)

Letter—from C. P. Skrine, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department.
To—the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department.
Dated—Simla, 8th June 1920.
No.—2230/G.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. P.C. 515, dated the 29th March 1920, regarding the procedure to be followed in collecting passport fees.

2. I am to say that the Government of India have no objection to passport fees being recovered by the Government of Bombay by means of court-fee or postage stamps.

III

Letter—from M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao Avargal, Secretary, to the Government of Madras, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.
To—the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department.
Dated—the 5th August 1920.
No.—~~Rel~~. 3387-2.

I am directed to invite a reference to your letter No. 1366-G., dated the 27th June 1920, regarding the collection of passport fees and to state that this Government

have decided to adopt the new procedure of collecting these fees by means of stamps. They are in favour of using postage stamps and are of opinion that it would be more convenient to affix these to the passports instead of to forms A and E as suggested by the Government of India.

As the revenue derived from postage stamps is purely Imperial, I am to inquire whether the Government of India will be prepared to give a compensatory assignment to this Government, in case the above system is adopted. I am to point out that, under the existing rates, the fees realized from passports, renewals, endorsements and visas amount to nearly Rs. 1,000 per mensem on an average and that this income will further increase when the enhancement of the rates of fees for passports and renewals sanctioned in Government of India's letter to the Bombay Government No. 1487-G., dated 15th July 1920 is given effect to. The Governor in Council considers that this Government cannot reasonably be expected to forego this income which is by no means negligible.

Letter—from C. P. Skrine, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department.

To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.

Dated—Simla, the 8th September 1920.

No—193-G.

With reference to your letter No. 3387-2, dated the 5th August 1920, I am directed to say that in their letter No. 1366-G, dated the 27th June 1920, the Government of India left it entirely within the discretion of local Governments either to adopt the use of stamps, postage or court-fee, for the purpose of collecting passport fees or to continue receiving such fees in cash.

2. The impending change in the crediting of stamp revenue will, from the date of the introduction of the new financial arrangements between the Imperial and Provincial Governments, permit of local Governments exercising this discretion without their revenues suffering any corresponding diminution.

3. In the meantime I am to say that the Government of India are not able to accede to the wishes of the Madras Government by granting to them an assignment. The Local Government may, if it desires, postpone the change of procedure until stamp revenue becomes a completely provincial head.

4. I am to add that if the system is adopted, the stamps should be affixed to the application and not to the passport form.

Order—No. 119, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 27th January 1921.

The Government direct that with effect from the 1st April 1921, passport fees shall be collected by means of court-fee labels affixed to the applications for the grant, renewal or endorsement of passports and for the visa of foreign passports.

2. The Publicity Officer is requested to issue a news slip on the change of procedure. The Collector of Madras, all District Magistrates, the Resident in Travancore and Cochin and the Political Agents for Pudukkōttai, Banganapalle and Sandur are also requested to give it wide publicity.

3. If for any reason fees are received in cash they should be converted ~~into~~ court-fee labels and affixed to the application. In order to meet such contingencies a separate stock of court-fee labels of suitable denominations should be kept in all offices where applications for passports are received, with a separate account of their expenditure.

4. Officers authorized to issue passports should, before ~~in~~ signing the passports, satisfy themselves that court-fee labels ~~value~~ equivalent in value to the proper amount of fee to be collected have been affixed to the applications and should deface them so as to prevent their being used again.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

R. Ramachandra Rao,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Madras.
,, all District Magistrates.
,, the Political Agents for Pudukkôttai, Banganapalle and Sandur.
,, the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Publicity Officer.
,, the General Officer Commanding, 9th Secunderabad Division, (with C.L.).
,, the American Consul, Madras, (with C.L.).
,, the French Consul, Madras, (with C.L.).
,, the Italian Consul, Madras, (with C.L).
,, the Swiss Consul, Bombay, (with C.L.).
,, the Consul for Netherlands, Madras, (with C.L.).
,, His Britannic Majesty's Consul for Pondicherry.
,, the Persian Consul, Madras, (with C.L.).
,, the Commissioner of Police, Madras.
,, the Financial Department (with copy of ~~Financial~~ notes).

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 119, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS), DATED 27TH JANUARY 1921.

[SUBJECT.—*Passport fees—Collection of—.*]

From the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, No. 1366-G., dated 27th June 1920.

The procedure obtaining in this Presidency is that prescribed in rule 8 of the Passport Regulations printed on page 5 of G.O. No. 1460, Public, dated 5th October 1915. Very rarely stamps, either postage or court-fee, are used in payment.

2. The Government of India while approving the new method proposed by the Government of Bombay, leave it to the discretion of the local Government to decide whether the existing practice is to continue or whether the fees due may be collected in the shape of stamps. The new method involves, as pointed out by the Government of Bengal, a certain amount of pecuniary loss to Government. The Bengal Government are prepared to overlook this but the Bombay Government propose to ask for a compensatory grant from the Government of India. So far as the Madras Government are concerned, it is observed that the fees realized from passports, visas and endorsements amounted to Rs. 975 per mensem as an average during March, April and May 1920. The new method will doubtless provide an effective check on the proper crediting of passport fees to Government. In view, however, of the appreciable loss that will be caused by the acceptance of stamps, it is for consideration whether any change in the existing procedure is necessary.

For orders.

R.D.M.—9-7-20.

I do not see why we should change the procedure and lose money.

S.A.—12-7-20. W. S. BROWN—13-7-20.

Is not court-fee stamps to become wholly Provincial in the immediate future?

2. In almost every other country, I see stamps on the passports are used. Here I have to keep a separate register and to guard against embezzlement is a nuisance. I would welcome the system if it involves no loss. But I would prefer to affix the stamp on the passport. The difficulty pointed out by B does not often occur here.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—13-7-20.

Paragraph 1 of Secretary's note.—Submitted 'yes'.

'B' in paragraph 2.—It is submitted that court-fee stamps are comparatively larger in size than postage stamps and that some passports submitted for visas or endorsements may not contain sufficient space for affixing the court-fee stamps.

S.A.—14-7-20. W.S.B.—15-7-20.

I have always grave doubts whether the money received in office is being properly credited and I should not be surprised if one day it is found that the money leaks. To save this, I welcome the proposal.

2. In the case of the passports I have seen, the fee is generally affixed on the passport by the Consuls. I think that we may adopt the procedure.

Draft submd. for approval.
Please

C.F. 171.

OFFICE OF THE ___________________

Dated ___________________ 191 .

Home

_______ Hours _______ Minutes.

Miscellaneous

TELEPHONIC MESSAGE.

From The Collector of Madras 12

To The ~~Ch.~~ collector S. to Govt Home Dept Madras

Ref Govt memo 4485-1 | 18-10-20

please quote the correct No of my letter

~~Pass[illegible] passport~~

Home (Mis) Dept

K00
29/10

Reply

The number of ~~Please refer to~~ your letter as already stated in the D.M. is D. No. 207 of 8.10.20. It relates to the issue of a passport to ~~[illegible]~~ S. Muthiah Chetti about whom a reference had been received from the D.M. Ramnad for his R/C.

OR 29.10.20.

Sd. 29.10.20

15,612—25-11-19.

G.F. 88.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE RETD. 8 - NOV 1920 MADRAS

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT 10 NOV. 1920 GOVT. OF MADRAS

Home Department.

Miscellaneous Branch.

C.M.O. 4991/A

13

REMINDER.

REPLY. 16-11-20

To

The collector of Madras.

To

THE 8--NOV.-1920

The undersigned ~~has the honour to invite~~ is directed to invite ~~invites~~ attention to the communication noted in the margin and to request that this reminder may be returned at once with information as to—

Memo No. 4485-1, dated 18-10-1920

(1) ~~the stage at which the matter now is,~~

(2) the date by which a reply may be expected ~~and~~

(3) the circumstances which have caused the delay.

2. It is requested that the reply to this reminder may be sent not later than

Office Home Secretariat

Station Fort St. George

Dated 6th November 1920.

I Chalapathi 6.11.20

Signature.

Under Secretary to Government

Designation.

Home Department

Ok. 5-11-20

Ia 5.11.20

SUBJECT.

Passport — Muthaiyappa Chetty

N.D. 207-20

Returned—

I have not recd Memo 4485-1 d. 18-10-20. I recd Memo 433-1-1 d. 4-10-20 on 7-10-20 & replied to it on 8-10-20 that I had not received a P.P. to any one called S. Muthaiya Chetty.

A Tottenham 8.11.20. Clk.

NOTES TO G.O. No. 119, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS), 27TH JANUARY 1921

3. We must now instruct all officers issuing passports to adopt this procedure: also all officers sending up passports to send up a label. To save time, even if the label be omitted to be sent, we can purchase the label here if the receipt of fee be certified.

4. When I sign the passport, I shall check if the label is there and deface it.

5. If Honourable Member approves, I shall issue necessary instructions.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—16-7-20.

Please give Financial an opportunity of commenting.

L. D[AVIDSON]—17-7-20.

~~Yes.~~

R.R.—21-7-20.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

The present practice is for the passport office to receive fees in cash and credit them to Government at the local treasury. It is now proposed to adopt a simplified procedure by asking the applicants to pay the fees in the form of stamps affixed to the passport.

2. The fees received by this Government for the issue of passports, visas and endorsements are said to amount, on an average, to Rs. 275 per mensem or Rs. 11,700 per annum. The Bombay Government propose to use only postage stamps and to ask the Government of India for a compensatory assignment as the revenue from postage stamps is purely Imperial. But it will be seen that the Government of India in their reply say nothing about a compensatory assignment, and they are not likely to give an assignment to Madras if the proposal is adopted.

Because Bombay say the matter will be considered later.

J.M.H.—26-7-20.

3. With effect from 1921-22, court-fee stamps will be wholly Provincial, but the difficulty is that it is not easy to get court-fee labels. The following procedure may perhaps be adopted:—

(1) All applicants for passports may be instructed to affix a court-fee label to cover the fee;

(2) If any applicant omits to do this, the office receiving the passport should receive the fee in cash and affix a court-fee label for the value;

(3) For this purpose, passport offices should have a stock of court-fee labels with a separate account;

(4) The officer signing the passport should, before signing it, satisfy himself that the necessary stamp has been affixed and he should deface the stamp.

4. If this system is approved, it may be given effect to from 1st April 1921, so as to avoid a loss to Provincial funds in the meanwhile. The Home (Miscellaneous) Department may also be requested to consult the Accountant-General before issuing orders.

~~J.B.~~—25-7-20.

I think postage stamps would be more convenient and we may at once ask India if they will give us an assignment if we introduce the use of such stamps for passports. If they refuse we can introduce court-fee stamps from 1st April 1921.

J. M. HOOPER—26-7-20. R. A. GRAHAM—28-7-20.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

For orders whether the Government of India may be addressed as suggested by the Financial Department. If so, the draft submitted is for approval.

~~R.A.C.~~—2-8-20. S.A.—3-8-20.

Secretary and issue.

I shall consider later on the rules proposed in Financial.

W. S. BROWN—4-8-20.

Issue.

R.R.—5-8-20.

[Issued/letter No. 3387-2, dated 5th August 1920.]

From the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department, No. 1938-*G., dated 8th September* 1920.

The Government of India say that they cannot give a compensatory assignment if stamps are used in the collection of passport fees. The only course now left is to collect the fees by means of court-fee stamps and to postpone the introduction of the change till the 1st April 1921 when the revenue derived from court-fee stamps will be wholly Provincial.

2. The Government of India insist that the stamps should be affixed to the application and not to the passport itself. If this course is adopted a difficulty will arise when there is no formal application and passports are presented in person for renewal or endorsement, as is often the case in the case of applicants at the Secretariat.

W.S.B.—21-9-20. | In such cases it would be necessary to obtain from the applicant a formal application and have the stamp affixed thereto.

3. As regards the mode of collection the rules proposed by Financial in their note on pages 5 and 6 ante appear to be unobjectionable. For orders.

R.A.H.—18-9-20.

How are these instructions to be made known? By separate rules pasted on the back of application forms?

S.A.—20-9-20. W. S. BROWN—21-9-20.

The Publicity Officer may be asked to issue a news slip and in the order which will be communicated to all District Magistrates, they may also be asked to give wide publicity to the order.

2. The contents of the order may also be printed on small slips and pasted on to application forms a supply of which is generally made to all District Magistrates from the Secretariat.

S.N.P.—23-9-20. S.A.—23-9-20.

Court-fee stamps may be used from 1st April and the procedure suggested by Financial may be adopted. Publicity may be given as suggested above.

W.S.B.—23-9-20.

I agree (1) that court-fee stamps be used, (2) that the change be given effect to from the 1st April.

The labels will have to be affixed to the application forms.

Regarding rules, let publicity be given as suggested above. If the applicants affix the label, well and good. If not, the forwarding officer (Commissioner of Police, District Magistrates or Resident, Travancore and Cochin)) should utilise the cash to buy a stamp and affix. Surely when money is received in the Secretariat, regarding suggested rule (4), a circular is necessary; it affects not only one but also the Collector of Madras and in the case of passports to the Straits Settlements certain other Collectors. I would draft a circular.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—28-9-20.

A draft order is submitted. If approved it may be sent to the Financial Department for acceptance.

S.N.P.—30-9-20.

[The order alone may be communicated to the addressees.]

S.A.—1-10-20.

I doubt if it is advisable to issue this or at least give publicity to it until much nearer 1st April next year otherwise there is certain to be confusion.

W.S.B.—2-10-20.

I agree: call book 10th January next.

R.R.—4-10-20.

Submitted.

M.R.S.—10-1-21. J. A. DEROZARIO—12-1-21.

S.A.—10-1-21.

Draft for acceptance.

R.R.—14-1-20.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Please see Financial note, dated 28th July 1920, at pages 4–6 ante. It was suggested (1) that passport fees may be collected by means of postage stamps and as this would be an Imperial receipt an assignment to cover the loss entailed to Provincial funds may be asked for from the Government of India, and

(2) that if the Government of India refused an assignment, passport fees may be collected by means of court-fee stamps which will be wholly Provincial from 1921-22.

The Government of India have refused to give an assignment for adopting the suggestion in (1) above, but have left it to the option of the Local Government to adopt the suggestion in (2) above.

2. Fees for registry of passports will, with effect from 1921-22, be "*Imperial*". It will therefore be advantageous to Provincial funds to adopt the method proposed in (2) above.

A provision of Rs. 22,000 has been included in the *Imperial* estimates for 1921-22 under Miscellaneous—Fees for Registry of Passports on account of passport fees. This provision will have to be deleted and a corresponding amount included in the Provincial Estimates under IV. Stamps. The necessary intimation may be given to the Accountant-General. The Home (Miscellaneous) Department may be requested to furnish very *urgently* a copy of the proceedings in this case with a copy of this department notes, as Accountant-General will have to intimate to the Government of India the alteration in the *Imperial* estimates in the second edition of his budget notes due with India on 6th February 1921.

3. The draft order may be accepted.

C.R.S.—20-1-21. J. M. HOOPER—21-1-21. R. A. GRAHAM—23-1-21.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

For orders as to issue.

S.A.—25-1-21. J. A. DEROZARIO—26-1-21.

After issue, circular instructions will be considered.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—26-1-21.

L. D[AVIDSON]—26-1-21.

~~Noted in call book.~~

~~M.S.—1-2-21.~~

[G.O. No. 119, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 27th January 1921.]

17 29

File stitched with the orgl. of G.O. 119 / 27.1.21

U.S.

Home (Misc.) Dept.

(X)

Attention is solicited to the Secretary's notes marked 'A' on pages 3 & 4 of notes with G.O. No. 119 of 27.1.21. Passports have now been abolished in the case of Indians proceeding to the Straits and the Dt. Magistrates, to whom the power of issuing passports in respect of such persons has been delegated, will no longer have to exercise that power. The only officer outside the Secretariat who can issue passports is the Collector of Madras during the absence of the Govt. at Ootacamund. For orders whether any special instruction should issue to him in the matter of defacing stamps while signing passports. Para. 4 of the G.O. seems sufficiently clear.

[signature] 17.2.21.

[initials] 18/2/21
Secy.

I agree.
[signature] 18/2/21

PRESS SLIP.

~~ORDINARY.~~ ~~PREFERENCE.~~ URGENT (a).

Sectt. II—38—2-15. Home (Misc.) DEPARTMENT.

Current No. ....., dated ..... 191 .

G.O. No. 119, dated 27—1—21 191 .

(b)

Number of MS. pages sent { Correspondence 9 / (b1) Notes 12

Brief subject .....

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(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

[P.T O

TO PRESS, MADRAS OOTY.

A

Please send proof urgently in duplicate. The papers have been carefully edited.

..... *Referencer.*
Clerk.

1.2.21

..... *Supdt.*

B

Proof returned corrected. Please strike off and send number of copies as indicated.

Type may be released after usual interval. / at once.

..... *Referencer.*
Clerk.

..... *Supdt.*

C

As the matter is clea
has been carefully ed
not be sent. Pleas
number of copies as
Type may be released a

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

Note

There are two sets of G.os. to be p
case.

(1) The issue set should contain
and (2) The record set should contain the co
dance.

Please send proof urgently.

1.2.21

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PRESS.

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