

18/2/35

8-4-21

Marine
Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No.

643 *Marine*

DATED

23rd July '98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Estimates for Public Works : Pro. To.
Dept. Approving the recommendation of the
Chief Engineer in regard to the annual forecast
to be made by the Inspector of Prisons of the
requirements of the jails under his charge
& cancelling the orders prohibiting the prepar-
ation, without the prior sanction of Govt., of
estimates exceeding Rs 500, communicated
to the Prob. Pat. Officer.

22/7/98

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

Approving the recommendation of the Chief Engineer in regard to the annual forecast to be made by the Inspector-General of Prisons of the requirements of the jails under his charge, and cancelling the orders prohibiting the preparation, without the prior sanction of Government, of estimates exceeding Rs. 500.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following papers:—

- Endorsement, in the Judicial Department, No. 1856, dated 6th September 1897, on letter from the Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, No. 4478, dated 2nd September 1897.
Office-note from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Madras, No. 2977 B./A., dated 20th September 1897.
Letter from the Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, No. C./2497, dated 5th November 1897.
Office-note from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Madras, No. 111 B./A., dated 15th January 1898.
Letter from the Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, No. C./473, dated 6th February 1898.
Office-note from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Madras, No. 677 B./A., dated 2nd March 1898.
Letter from the Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, No. 1120, dated 30th March 1898.
" " " " " 1750, " 25th April "

Note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

In his letters quoted above, the Inspector-General of Prisons asks for a reconsideration of the practice which "appears to be enforced by the Public Works Accounts Department of treating a jail as a single building." He adds: "*the reductio ad absurdum* of this practice is furnished by G.O., No. 2130 W., dated 4th August 1897, where an estimate for strengthening ventilators of sleeping blocks is, at the instance of the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, treated as supplementary to an estimate for sinking a well."

2. The practice originated with G.O., No. 1954 W., dated 7th August 1895, and, on the initiation of the Examiner, who considered that "all sanctions during any one financial year connected with any one work or project should be looked upon as supplemental to one another." During the year 1894-95 the Consulting Architect sanctioned thirteen estimates of sorts in connection with the General Hospital, Madras. The first estimate sanctioned happened to be "providing designation boards." The result of the Examiner's suggestion would, the Consulting Architect pointed out, be that "the nomenclature in the accounts and returns of the whole thirteen estimates would be that of the first estimate," viz., "Providing designation boards." The Examiner proposed to get over this difficulty by arranging to sanction "one estimate for each building at the commencement of every official year." This arrangement would, he considered, "simplify accounting considerably," and this is undoubtedly the case. Moreover in Code Volume II, Chapter I, paragraph 99, it is distinctly laid down that a central jail is to be considered as one "work" and all its out-buildings as "sub-works."

3. The Inspector-General of Prisons, in the correspondence quoted above, considers the difficulties in the way of framing one estimate for each "work" per annum to be very great, if not insurmountable. He points out that, to enable him to estimate the requirements of each building, it would be necessary for him to tour all over the Presidency just before the commencement of each official year, so as to see each building for himself. If this be so, the arrangement must be admitted to be impracticable, but such a tour seems to be altogether unnecessary. The Chief Engineer does not inspect every building before submitting or sanctioning estimates for its repairs; that duty is delegated to the Executive Engineer in charge of the division, occasionally supervised by the Superintending Engineer. In the same manner the Superintendent of a jail can surely be trusted to estimate the requirements of his jail, with occasional supervision on the part of the Inspector-General.

4. There is no doubt that the Examiner is correct in his interpretation of the Code rules, although the latter are not very explicit on the subject, and it is submitted that the case will be met if the Inspector-General of Prisons is directed to have a forecast made annually in January of the requirements of each jail under his charge during the ensuing official year under the heads:—

- (1) Minor new works. | (2) Repairs.

This forecast would be forwarded to the Executive Engineer in charge of the division, who, under the authority given to him by Code Volume I, Chapter IX, paragraphs 48 and 59 (see below), would prepare two estimates only, one headed Central Jail—Minor new works, 1898-99, and the other Central Jail—Repairs, 1898-99; the estimate for each separate building being included under one or the other, and the two estimates being sanctioned by the Superintending Engineer, if within his powers, or, if not, submitted to Government for sanction. Any other works found absolutely necessary during the year would be considered as supplemental to one or other of the above estimates and sanctioned accordingly.

5. The Inspector-General of Prisons raises the further question as to whether the existing orders * prohibiting the preparation, without sanction of Government, of estimates exceeding Rs. 500 should not be relaxed. He points out that the rule is not in accordance with the Public Works Code or the recent policy of decentralization of work.

6. In this connection it may be remarked that Code paragraph 59, Chapter IX, Volume I, vests the Executive Engineer with a discretionary power of refusing demands for works of the necessity for which he is not satisfied, which power can be supervised by the Superintending Engineer. I agree with the Inspector-General of Prisons that it is unnecessary to go beyond Code rules in this respect, they being sufficient to safeguard Government against the preparation of unnecessary estimates, and I recommend that the rulings on this head quoted above be cancelled.

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Chief Engineer.

16th May 1898.

From A. G. CARDEW, Esq., M.A., Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 7th June 1898, No. 2858.

In reply to Mr. Russell's endorsement, No. 332/D., dated 1st June 1898, I have the honour to state, without referring to the technical difficulties surrounding the question, whether a jail should, for account purposes, be regarded as a single "building," that, if the suggestion in paragraph 6 of the Chief Engineer's note is adopted, I am prepared to accept the proposals in paragraph 4, provided that the forecast should be forwarded to the Superintending Engineer rather than to the Executive Engineer.

ORDER—No. 1701 W., dated 6th July 1898.

His Excellency the Governor in Council approves of the recommendation made by the Chief Engineer in paragraph 4 of his note read above in regard to the annual forecast to be made by the Inspector-General of Prisons. The forecast will, however, be forwarded to the Superintending Engineer of the circle, who will communicate it to Executive Engineers concerned for the preparation of the requisite estimates.

2. The orders quoted in the margin prohibiting the preparation, without the prior sanction of Government, of estimates exceeding Rs. 500, are now cancelled. Executive Engineers will in future be guided by the provisions of the Public Works Code, *vide* paragraph 59, Chapter IX, Volume I.

G.O., No. 1787 W., dated 15th June 1892.

" " 2806 W., " 7th Oct. "

(True Extract.)

A. K. M. S.

Under Secretary to Government.

To Superintending Engineers.
 „ the Consulting Architect.
 „ the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
 „ the Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Division.
 „ the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
 „ the Judicial Department.
 „ the Public
 „ the Educational „
 „ the Ecclesiastical „
 „ the Financial „
 „ the Revenue „
 „ the Local and Municipal Department.
 „ the Marine Department.