

G.O., No. 195 Marine

DATED 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]  
Lighthouse Works under Construction at Havelock  
Point From: P. W. D. Sanchoing a Supplemental  
 Estimate of Rs 2630 to cover the loss caused by  
 a cyclone to the \_\_\_\_\_, Keshav St, Advancing that  
 to approval of the Govt of India he obtained Rs the  
 item of Rs 250 in the Estimate representing loss  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ of conductor Smith for the loss of  
 his personal property, communicated to the  
 Dist Pat Officer.

Sanctioning a supplemental estimate of Rs. 2,630 to cover the loss caused by a cyclone to the — in the Kistna district, and directing that the approval of the Government of India be obtained to the item of Rs. 250 in the estimate representing compensation to Conductor Smith for the loss of his personal property.

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.  
Civil Works.

READ—the following papers:—

From F. W. ASHPITEL, Esq., Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department (through the Presidency Port Officer, Madras), dated 24th November 1898, No. 1424.

In continuation of the letters noted in the margin reporting that the works at Havelock Point, False Point Divi, had been visited by a cyclone, I have the honour to submit the following additional information.

2. The storm commenced at 2 P.M. on the 10th with the wind from the north-east, and from this time up to 7-30 A.M. on the 11th, there was heavy rain and the sea rose and filled up the low lying parts of the island. At 4 A.M. on the 11th, Mr. Smith visited the lighthouse and other works, and found every thing secure, except that water was running through the work sheds being then 1' 6" above H.T.L., or 4 feet above ground level at the tower. At 7-30 A.M. the wind changed to the west, and was so violent that Mr. Smith considered it necessary to vacate all sheds; and from this time up to 11 A.M. when the storm was at its height, every shed was destroyed, except a small corrugated iron store which was partially sheltered and which was merely tilted a little on one side. The force of the wind may be gauged from the fact that large scaffold poles were broken off about 6 feet above ground, and the posts of some of the sheds at about 3 feet above ground; it was no question of roofs being blown off, but the sheds were utterly destroyed. During the worst part of the storm no one could stand in the wind and every one had to remain in the open. At 11 A.M. the wind moderated in force, and Mr. and Mrs. Smith and the women and children occupied the corrugated iron shed, the men coolies finding such shelter as they could. It was not until noon on the 12th that anything could be done in the way of obtaining a change of clothes, or pitching a tent, and, as the only food procurable was some native sweetmeat, Mr. Smith purchased this and distributed it among the coolies. I have given instructions that the cost of this sweetmeat, Rs. 4, may be charged in the cash book.

3. It will be noticed that, during the first part of the storm, the sea flooded the island being driven in by the north-east wind; but, when the storm was at its height, the wind changed to the west and drove the water back into the sea and river. This change in the direction of the wind, and the fact that the tide was running out at the time was most fortunate, as, had the conditions been otherwise, the loss of life might have been serious, and, had not the buildings been promptly vacated, would probably, in any case; have been considerable.

4. After the storm the first thing was to erect new sheds for the establishment with such materials as were available and this was done with the help of the few coolies whose homes were at a distance, as those who lived in the neighbouring villages had left the works to look after their huts, many of which are said to have been damaged. Parties were also sent out to collect the doors and windows, well curbs, timber, cement casks, &c., which had been swept away into the jungle and, when

I arrived at the works on the 31st, work was going on as usual though there were ample signs of the storm in every direction. No damage was done to the buildings under construction.

5. I append lists showing the estimated loss to the work, to office furniture and to Mr. Smith, and to submit an estimate for the sanction of Government to cover the loss sustained. That the loss to the works is not greater is due to Mr. Smith, who, under circumstances of great discomfort and with little or no food available, stuck to his work and managed to secure labour to erect sheds for establishment and perishable materials, and to collect materials and stores which had been swept away; and I would request that Government may be pleased to compensate him for the loss of his personal effects to the extent of Rs. 250. Including this sum the total loss is estimated at Rs. 2,680 as per estimates enclosed, for which sanction is requested.

No. 1271/428 G.

Forwarded for the favourable consideration of Government observing that, in my opinion, Mr. Smith's loss should be made good to him as it was caused through no fault of his own.

MADRAS, (Signed) H. A. STREET, Comdr., R.I.M.,  
30th November 1898. Presidency Port Officer.

Office-note to the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, dated 5th December 1898, No. 5461 C.

Office-note from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Madras, dated 10th December 1898, No. 4201 B./E.

Compensation to Conductor Smith is not admissible (*vide* Government of India Circular No. XXI, dated 21st May 1880, and Public Works Department, Volume I, chapter IV, paragraph 116). If Government consider that Conductor Smith's claim deserves consideration, the case may be submitted for the orders of India.

Office-note to the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, dated 3rd January 1899, No. 43 C.

Office-note from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Madras, dated 9th January 1899, No. 76 B./E.

No, as it appears to me that the sanction will involve the setting aside of an existing rule of the Government of India (*vide* proviso 2 of Public Works Department Code, Volume I, I, 41-A, clause 1, and chapter IV, 116).

ORDER—No. 464 W., dated 13th February 1899.

With his letter read above, the Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Division, submits for sanction an estimate, amounting to Rs. 2,630, to cover the loss caused by a cyclone to the lighthouse works under construction at Havelock Point in the Kistna district. This estimate is accordingly sanctioned as supplemental to the estimate of Rs. 1,14,790 for the lighthouse and its subsidiary buildings sanctioned in G.Os., No. 670 W., dated 8th March 1897, and No. 2217 W., dated 30th August 1898, respectively, subject to the approval of the Government of India to the item of Rs. 250 entered therein as compensation to Conductor Smith for the loss of his personal property.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government Marine Dept*  
*Read the following*  
BUILDINGS AND ROADS.  
CIVIL WORKS.

## Government (1899) of Madras. PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd.

Enclosures

1899.

Regd.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 464 W., 13th February 1899.

*No: 195 Madras 2.3.99.*  
*Communicated to the*  
*Presidency Port Officer*

FEBRUARY.

(Sd) A.S.R.

24.2.99.

Sd.

*The Presidency Port Officer*

### Lighthouse Works under construction at Havelock Point

Sanctioning a supplemental estimate of Rs. 2,630 to cover the loss caused by a cyclone to the — in the Kistna district, and directing that the approval of the Government of India be obtained to the item of Rs. 250 in the estimate representing compensation to Conductor Smith for the loss of his personal property.

2. The sanction accorded in the above paragraph has been registered as Excluded Local No. 34 W. of 1898-99, and classified as Miscellaneous Public Improvements—Original Works.

3. The Government of India will be addressed.

[Here enter No. 465 W., dated 13th February 1899.]

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. W. SMART, Colonel, R.E.,  
Ag. Secy. to Government.

To the Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse division.  
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.  
" Marine Department.  
" Financial Department.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

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3. It will be noticed that, during the first part of the storm, the sea flooded the island being driven in by the north-east wind; but, when the storm was at its height, the wind changed to the west and drove the water back into the sea and river. This change in the direction of the wind, and the fact that the tide was running out at the time was most fortunate, as, had the conditions been otherwise, the loss of life might have been serious, and, had not the buildings been promptly vacated, would probably, in any case; have been considerable.

4. After the storm the first thing was to erect new sheds for the establishment with such materials as were available and this was done with the help of the few coolies whose homes were at a distance, as those who lived in the neighbouring villages had left the works to look after their huts, many of which are said to have been damaged. Parties were also sent out to collect the doors and windows, well curbs, timber, cement casks, &c., which had been swept away into the jungle and, when

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Nos. 1340 and 1345, dated 15th October 1898.  
" 1346 and 1349, " 15th " "

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