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2. Date of repair. 18-6-37
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 7. 4. 1857

G.O. No.	64	Press Mis.
91-92		
Dated	7. 4	1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

SBO 18-6-37

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 7th April 1857.

No. 91. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 25th March 1857, No. 11308.

SIR,

1. The time having already arrived when it is highly advisable that the District Engineers and other Officers of the D. P. W. in the Provinces should be in a position to make timely and effective arrangements for the active prosecution of the works of the season now at hand, under the Budget of 1857-58; I have the honor to request you will do me the favor to apply for an early communication of the orders of Government for my guidance.

2. By the general rules, which I assume to be still in force, the whole of estimates in list No. 2 which have already received the individual special sanction of Government, carry with them their own executive authorisation from the 1st May, similarly the Projects above (25,000) Rupees twenty-five thousand sanctioned by the Government of India or by the Honorable Court comprize to the extent of the annual allotment of the year, permission to take up Funds, and to renew the suspended operations of the season. And finally, to whatever extent necessary by the condition of the Public Works, the amounts entered in List No. 3 are, available for maintenance and repairs.

3. But in several parts of the Presidency, the interval between the opening of the official year (perhaps the least suitable or convenient that could have been selected for an Indian D. P. W.) and the filling of the channels, or the falling of the periodical rains, is so brief, that even the loss of a single day's work after the 1st May, may have an important influence on the successful completion of a work, and on the interests of the community.

4. Hitherto the rationale of the Indian Budgets, by which the intended operations of the year shall be duly authorized for vigourous execution, the very moment that year begins, has not been realized; and it is perhaps to the last degree unlikely, that the decision of the Government of India on the measures projected for the benefit of the Madras Presidency, for 1857-58, will be received until some considerable, and that a particularly valuable, portion of the year, shall have already expired. In short it admits of no doubt in my own mind, that hitherto the practical action of the Budget system has been signally obstructive, but this may be that my position enables me to observe its continual injurious effects whilst not able to detect such advantages as it may really possesses.

5. At the present conjuncture, there is an urgent reason, which has not hitherto existed, why the utmost advantage should be taken of whatever circumstances may contribute to the best possible appropriation of the assignment of funds that may be placed at the disposal of the Madras Government. It is now only that for the first time, the personnet of a P. W. D., has been organised in detail, and which completed in its three classes of an agency more or-less skilled, is now placed on a liberal and permanent footing, thus giving it a position to do much more justice to plans of improvement, and to work better, cheaper and more extensively than has ever been the case hitherto.

6. For particular and exceptional causes connected with the general policy of the empire, not only have funds been wanting to give effect hitherto to the profesional machinery thus got together, but even for particular works deemed by the local Government to be of so urgent a character as to require emergent prosecution the arrangements made and in some cases the promises held out personally by the District Engineers have been over-ruled by orders from Calcutta, and large bodies of workmen collected by great exertion and at considerable expense, have necessarily been dispersed to the no small discredit of the professional Department. It is moreover to be feared, that the object of economy thus rigidly enforced by the stoppage of operations already begun, will not only be not attained, but that the arresting of progress, absolutely, without regard to the unfitness of the stage at which the several works have arrived, will eventually in some cases, if not in many, lead to a larger ultimate expenditure, than if no sudden and unconditional interruption had been enjoined.

7. The foregoing observations will I hope conclusively establish in the consideration of Government, both the advantage and even the necessity of the Officers of the D. P. W. being

clearly given to understand, exactly what is expected from them, during the currency of the Budget of 57-58. If I had even already been put in possession of a copy of that important document, as prepared in the Government office, and finally despatched for the orders of the Governor General of India, I should have been far from thinking it premature to issue the subsidiary instructions, with copies of plans and alterations of estimates to the several local Officers concerned; and to enable me to fulfil this office, with the requisite care, and to afford the District Engineers time for all preparatory arrangements, I trust that it may not be inconvenient to favor me with a copy of the Budget lists at an early period.

8. But the orders of Government on which the effective Proceedings of the D. P. W. most depend, are the instructions that may be sent to the Financial Officer of Government, for the due provision of funds under the established regulations of the Department, for their receipt and account, deducting for each District, the aggregate amounts representing the new projects requiring the sanction either of the Honorable Court or the Government of India, I beg leave to request, that the Accountant General be instructed to place on 1st May next the District totals of Budget lists 2 and 3 at the disposal of the several District Engineers in the Mofussil, as well as of the Superintendent Eastern Coast Canal, and the different Executive Officers at the Presidency.

9. In conclusion I beg leave to observe, that in consequence of the order contained in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 11, dated 3rd January 1857, restricting the Budget amount for 57-58 to fifty lacs of Rupees, a considerable number of projects, as the Government is aware, originally prepared for entry therein, still remain to be disposed of. With reference to these excluded estimates, I have the honor to solicit information as to whether these are at once to be brought forward again in the usual monthly lists; or, to be retained in the Central office, with the view (as was found necessary at a late period in the current year) of a selection being made from them in common with other projects under investigation, or to be investigated for entry in the Budget of 1858-59.

No. 92. ORDER THEREON, No. 610; dated 7th April 1857.

In this letter, the Chief Engineer applies for a copy of the Budget for 1857-58, and makes certain observations on the past practical working of the Budget system. The Government observe that a complete copy of the Budget has since the receipt of the Chief Engineer's communication now under notice been forwarded to him; and that he must now be in a position to issue instructions to the District Engineers. Sixty copies of the Budget will be sent hereafter for distribution among the District Engineers and Collectors.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has in Minutes Consultation dated 12th March 1857 No. 461, received the Budget and passed the necessary orders both in respect to works to be executed and the funds to be placed at the disposal of the Executive Officers. There can be no doubt whatever as to the commencement of the execution of the works entered in list No. 2, except in the case of those which may have been conditionally sanctioned; and the sums entered in list No. 3, are available for repairs in the several Districts. The prosecution of all the works will however be subject to the Financial restrictions which the Government of India or the Honorable the Court of Directors may hereafter prescribe; and while this Government recognize the truth of the observation made by Colonel Faber, in regard to the several disadvantages which in the end must be the result of any sudden stoppage of works, they cannot but enforce a strict compliance with the orders which the Government of India may think proper to issue in providing for expenditure over the whole of British India.

3. Adverting to para. 8, it will be pointed out to the Chief Engineer that in the order of 12th March 1857, alluded to above, the necessary funds have been allotted to each District for works entered in the Budget including those in Statement No. 1, as well as for emergent and other estimates that may hereafter be sanctioned as occasions may arise, in order to avoid the inconvenience of frequent orders being issued to the Collectors and Engineers. The maximum amount which it is computed on estimate will be required for expenditure in each District in the next official year is thus placed at the disposal of the Engineers, but it must be clearly understood

that they are by no means to incur expenditure upon any unauthorized works, and that they are to draw only such sums as are actually necessary for the execution of works already sanctioned.

4. The Governor in Council requests the special attention of the Chief Engineer to this subject, and desires that he will earnestly impress on all his subordinate officers the absolute necessity of strict attention to the orders given that no expenditure should be made on unsanctioned works or in excess of estimates beyond the prescribed limits.

With reference to the concluding para. of Colonel Faber's letter, the Government have only to inform him that the projects now in his office should be brought before them month by month.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Public Works Dept.

No. 640

Extract from the Minutes of Consultations
Under date the 7th April 1857.

Read the following
letter from the Chief Engineer

Here enter 28th March 1857
No. 11308

In this letter the
Chief Engineer applies
for a copy of the Budget
for 1857/58 and makes
certain observations on
the past practical work-
-ing of the Budget
system. The Govern-
-ment observe that a
complete copy of the
Budget has since the
receipt

receipt of the Chief Engineers
communication now under
notice, been forwarded to
him; and that he must now
be in a position to issue
~~the necessary~~ instructions
to the District Engineers.
Sixty Copies of the Bud-
get will be sent Rec.
after for distribution
among the District En-
gineers and Collectors.

2 The Right
Honorable the Governor
in Council has in Mi-
nute-Consultation dated
12th March 1857 No 461
reviewed the Budget
and passed the necessary
orders both in respect
to works to be executed

and

and the funds to be placed
at the disposal of the
Executive Officers. There
can be no doubt what-
ever as to the commence-
ment of the execution
of the works entered in
List No 2 except in
the case of those which
may have been condi-
tionally sanctioned;
and those enumerated
in List No 3 are avail-
able for repairs in
the several Districts.
The prosecution of all
the Works will
however be subject
to the financial
restrictions which
the Govt of India

or

or the Honble the Court of Directors may hereafter prescribe; and while the Govt recognize the truth of the observations made by Colonel Faber in regard to the several disadvantages which in the end must be the result of any sudden stoppage of work, they cannot but enforce a strict compliance with the orders which the Government of India may think proper to issue in to provide for the expenditure one-two of the whole of British India Territory

Adverting

3. Adverting to Para 8 it will be remarked out to the Chief Engineer that in the order of 12th March 1857 alluded to above, the necessary funds have been allotted to each District for works entered in the Budget including those in Statement No 1, and for the emergent and other Estimates that may hereafter be sanctioned as occasion may arise, in order to avoid the inconvenience of frequent orders being issued to the Collectors and Engineers. The maximum amount which it is computed will be required for

for expenditure in each District in the next Official year is thus ~~at once~~ placed at the disposal of the Engineers, but it must be clearly understood that they are by no means to incur expenditure upon any unauthorized works, and that they are to draw only such sums as are actually necessary for the execution of ~~sanctioned~~ works already sanctioned

4. 5 With reference to the concluding para of Colonel Jakes's letter the Government have only to inform him that the projects now in his Office should be brought before them ~~by the end of~~ month by the 1st of each month.

4 "The Governor in Council requests the special attention of the Chief Engineer to this subject, and desires that he will earnestly impress on all his subordinate officers the absolute necessity of strict attention to the Orders given that no expenditure is to be made on unsanctioned works or in excess of Estimates beyond the prescribed limits."

57 Copies to the Chief Engr Oct. 8.

Public Works 1857 Dep.tt
Cons.ns 7th April

No 640.

Extract Mins. of Cons.
Dep.t 7th April 57.

Observing with reference to the application of the Chs. Engrs. for a copy of the Budget for 1857-58 that a complete copy of the Budget has since the receipt of his communication been forwarded to him, & that he must now be in a position to issue instructions to the District Engrs. -

No 91 & 92.

C. Fyshe 23.