

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated

18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 14th September 1858.

No. 80. Ordered that the following letter be dispatched.

From T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; to Liuet.-Colonel R. STRACHEY, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, P. W. D., dated 11th September 1858, No. 1877.

SIR,

Para. 57 of the Public Works Budget for the current year, now before the Government of India, relates to an estimate for putting into efficient order the road between Coonoor, Jackatalah, and Ootacamund, amounting to Rupees 32,000 as shewn below.

	Rs.
Metalling	21,120
Parapet Walls... ..	10,136
Contingencies	744
Total.....	<u>32,000</u>

The construction of this road, at a cost of Rupees 15,000, was sanctioned by the Government of India on the 2nd September 1853, and the sums already expended upon it, under sanctions granted by this Government on three different occasions, amount to Rupees 37,596. The circumstances under which these additional disbursements were authorized, are explained in the para. of the Budget report already quoted, and need not here be recapitulated. The object of the present letter is to press on the attention of the Government of India, the necessity for placing this important communication between Ootacamund and the low Country, in a secure and efficient condition. For some distance, the road is carried along the sides of precipitous hills, and is dangerous to the safety both of passengers and traffic. The Right Honorable the Governor has recently satisfied himself, from personal inspection, that the portion referred to is actually unsafe, and is of opinion that the protection intended to be afforded by the construction of parapet walls, at a cost of 10,140 Rupees, should not be delayed. It may here be observed that no provision having ever been made for metalling the road, it is very slippery in wet weather; and as it is of importance that it should be placed in an efficient condition before the ensuing Monsoon, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council would prefer that both works should be executed at once, and desires me strongly to recommend for immediate sanction the entire Estimate of 32,000 Rupees.

Memo on the Road from
Coonor to Potacaimund (distance 12 miles)

It was originally estimated at a cost of 15000 Rs & sanctioned ⁱⁿ 6th Oct 1853 No 26. Subsequently a change in the line was proposed, & a further sum of 3334 Rs was granted in E.M.C 6th Oct 1853: and in 3rd Oct 1855 a supplementary Estimate of 13143 was sanctioned as it was found that the expense of the Harty cutting was greater than was anticipated. Thus the Total Estimate was 31477 Rs, but the actual outlay was eventually 37596 Rs. The road was not metalled, nor was this intended in the Estimate.

On the 24th Sep 1857 the Chief Engineer submitted to Govt an Estimate for amounting to 10140 Rs for building Parapet walls on the dangerous part of the road; but he observed that the road itself not being metalled was ^{very} dangerous being slippery in wet weather, & metalling was as important as the Parapet walls. Govt in E.M.C 23rd Oct 1857 No 37 directed to have a complete estimate for both Parapets & Metalling, & on the 16th Nov 1857 the Chief Engineer submitted an Estimate

to Chief
Dy. Secy
15-9-58

21st 1877

Lieut. Colonel R. Strachey
Offg. Secy to the Govt of India
St. Martin.

Sir,

Paras 57 of the Public
Works Budget for the cur-
rent year, now before the
Government of India, relates
to an estimate for putting
into efficient order the route
between Sooner, Saktatalla,
and Ootacamund, amounting
to Rspees 32,000 as shown
below:

Metalling	21,120
Parapet Walls	10,136
Contingencies	744
	<u>32,000</u>

The construction of
this road, at a cost of Rs-
pees 15,000, was sanctioned
by the Govt of India on
the 2nd September 1853, and
the sum already expended
upon it, under sanctions
granted by this Govt on
three different occasions,
amount

as follows

Metalling road	21,120
Parapet walls	10,136
Contingencies	744
	<u>32,000</u>

This sum being in excess of 25,000, was carried
in the Budget of 1858/59 in Statement I and
requires the sanction of the Govt of India in
which has not yet been received

In the R. H. to the Govt from per-
sonal inspection has satisfied himself
that the road for some distances, where
it looks sheer down a precipitous side
is actually unsafe, where the sanction
of 10,136 Rs for the Parapet walls is re-
quested. The metalling of the road will
be absolutely requisite before the next mon-
soon, & he would prefer the whole
estimate of 32,000 Rs being sanctioned
at once.

amount to Rs. 37,596.

The circumstances under which these additional disbursements were authorized, are explained in the para of the Budget report already quoted, and need not here be recapitulated. The object of the present letter is to press on the attention of the Govt. of India, the necessity for placing this important communication between the Government and the low Country, in a secure and efficient condition. For some distance, ~~the road~~ the road is carried along the sides of precipitous hills, and is dangerous to the safety both of passengers and traffic. The Right Honorable the Governor has recently satisfied himself, from personal inspection, that the portion referred to is actually unsafe, and

is of opinion that the protection intended to be afforded by the construction of parapet walls, at a cost of 10,400 Rs., should not be delayed. It may here be observed that no provision having ever been made for metalling the road, it is very slippery in wet weather, and as it is of importance that it should be placed in an efficient condition before the ensuing monsoon, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council would prefer that both works should be executed at once, and desires and strongly to recommend for immediate sanction the entire estimate of 32,000 Rs.

Fort St. George
11 Sep 1858.

A. P.

