

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT

File No.	Page
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 28th September 1858.

No. 136. Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 15th September 1858, No. 3672.

SIR,

Referring to para. 2 of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 2402, dated 26th December 1857, I have the honor to state that the Agent at Kurnool does not appear to have replied to the observations recorded by Lieutenant Shaw Stewart on the irregularity with which the Inquest over the bodies of the parties who were killed at the Hindree bridge was conducted; but the District Engineer has forwarded a copy of a letter from the present Collector of the District on the subject, which I beg to submit for the information of Government.

Letter from the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Kurnool; to Lieutenant T. BECKLEY, Acting District Engineer of Kurnool, dated 28th August 1858, No. 419.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 17th Instant, enclosing copy of one from the Chief Engineer calling for an explanation of the alleged irregularity of the Police in an Inquest held on the bodies of 4 coolies accidentally killed when working on the Hindree bridge, I have the honor to state that after enquiry I can find no proof of the irregularity complained of.

2. Lieutenant Stewart gives the names of 5 individuals who stated before him, that they signed a Mahazernamah without knowing its contents. On looking through the Police proceedings, I find a deposition taken from Peeragounda one of these 5, giving an account of the dangerous state of the excavation and also mentioning that he had reported its dangerous state to Mr. Woodward. This Peeragounda was a Subordinate in the Engineer's Department and it is difficult to believe that he signed both his deposition and the Mahazernama (corroborative of the deposition) without knowing the contents of either. That Mr. Woodward had been deceived as to the contents of his Deposition is probable enough, firstly, because he is made to acknowledge in his deposition that he was warned of the danger incurred by the coolies and secondly, Peeragounda who in his deposition states that he warned Mr. Woodward of the dangerous state of the excavation is known to have entertained feelings of ill-will towards him. Finding that Lieutenant Stewart did not approve of the statement contained in the Mahazernama, they got over the difficulty by denying all knowledge of its contents. That poor and ignorant men might thus have been entrapped into signing a document is not unlikely, but that such was the case with the Engineer's Native Subordinates is most improbable.

3. I may here notice that the then Acting Police Ameen cannot read or write Telugoo.

4. On a review of the case I am of opinion that (except Mr. Woodward's) the deposition and Mahazernama are genuine and are the statements of the parties whose names they bear, but that certain of these parties (being Mr. Stewart's Subordinates) finding that he was dissatisfied with the statement regarding the want of slope in the excavation denied all knowledge of the contents of the Mahazernama which they had signed.

No. 137. ORDER THEREON, No. 2013; dated 28th September 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing letter be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,

Chief Secretary.

No 3672

Central Office of Public Works
P.O. Secy, 15 September, 1884

Enclosure
Reference

The Officiating Chief Engineer.

To The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.

Enclosure 1

Letter from the Secy of the
Muzumdar dated 28 August 1884.

Referring to para 2 of the last
minutes of Consultation No 2102 dated 28th
December 1883, I have the honor to state that
the Agent at Kurnool does not appear to
have applied to the observations recorded by
Lieutenant Shaw Stewart on the irregularity
with which the payments over the bodies of the
parties who were killed at the Kurnool Bridge
was conducted, but the District Engineer
has forwarded a copy of a letter from the present
Collector of the District on the subject, which
I beg to submit for the information of
Government.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Yours most obedient servant
R. W. D. Major.
Offg. Chief Engineer

To The Secretary to Govt.
P. W. D.

1972

1816 Jan 28 Received of J. W. M. 100

1817 May 10 Received of J. W. M. 100

1818 Jan 10 Received of J. W. M. 100

1819 Jan 10 Received of J. W. M. 100

1820 Jan 10 Received of J. W. M. 100

1821 Jan 10 Received of J. W. M. 100

1822 Jan 10 Received of J. W. M. 100