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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 742

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Dated 6-3.

1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th March 1866.*

No. 95. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account), to the Secretary to Government of Madras, in the Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 9th February 1866, No. 154A :—

1. The Circular of the Accountant General, Madras, No. 26 of 1865, having been laid before the Government of India by the Accountant General, Public Works Department, I am directed to observe that the construction therein placed on the definition of "rents to be included as Public Works Revenue," laid down by the Government of India, appears to call for some qualification.

2. The definition referred to was contained in my letter No. 843A of the 21st September 1865, in paragraph 4 of which it was stated that the agency or management determines the incidence of the revenue [derived from buildings] ; and that the mere circumstance that a building was constructed by the Public Works Department, would not entitle that Department to be credited with the revenue derived.

3. On this, the Accountant General, Madras, (in the Circular above quoted), has requested Civil Officers to credit the rents of buildings to the respective Departments, under whose control they are held.

4. This however, is not quite the course contemplated by the Government of India ; and as the divergence has arisen apparently from an ambiguity of the expression, "a building being under charge of the Public Works Department," I am to explain that it was not intended by that expression that a building constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department, but made over for the use of another Department, as, *e. g.*, a Cutcherry, should cease to be regarded as "under the charge" of the Public Works Department. In such a case, the Department occupying the building is merely in the position of a tenant, and the Public Works Department as the agent of the proprietor.

5. But perhaps a simpler way of determining the incidence of rents and other receipts from buildings will be by making them follow the course of the charges for their maintenance. Thus, if a building, as a Cutcherry or Barrack, be repaired from funds supplied out of the Public Works grant, the income derived from it should be credited as Public Works Revenue, irrespective of the agency which collects such revenue. This was what was contemplated by my letter No. 843A, although the expression was not altogether clear.

6. I am to suggest that the Accountant General's Circular may be modified accordingly.

No. 96. ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1866, No. 742.

ACCOUNT, No. 16.

The Accountant General will be requested to modify his Circular No. 26 of 1865, with reference to the explanations which are contained in the letter above recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Accountant General.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Superintending Engineers.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 154A.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Account. /

To

THE SECY. TO GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

FORT WILLIAM, FEBRUARY 9, 1866.

SIR,

The Circular of the Accountant General, Madras, No. 26 of 1865, having been laid before the Government of India by the Accountant General, Public Works Department, I am directed to observe that the construction therein placed on the definition of "rents to be included as Public Works Revenue," laid down by the Government of India, appears to call for some qualification.

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6. I am to suggest that the Accountant General's Circular may be modified accordingly.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signature)

Lieut.-Col., R. A.,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

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Mr. Decey, General

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