

(1) Number of pages 8

(2) Date of repair 20-7-1867

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public work DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>1671</u>	Press <u></u>
<u>20-71</u>	Mis. <u></u>
Dated <u>4-6-</u>	<u>1867.</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th June 1867:*

No. 70. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 28th May 1867, No. 1,207:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department, dated 21st May 1867, No. 1,523.

1. Ordered that copy of the Statement that accompanied the letter from this Government to the Government of India, dated 12th March 1867, and which showed the maintenance grants for roads included in the allotments in Part III of the Imperial Budget, be furnished to the Board of Revenue, for communication to the several Collectors of the entries relating to their respective districts, in view to its being ascertained and reported what items of charge may properly be transferred in future years to Municipal or District Road Funds, in consequence of the works concerned being of merely local importance, as distinguished from trunk roads and salt roads laid out mainly in reference to revenue considerations.

2. The point should be settled without delay, so that provision may be made in the next Local Funds Budget.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Under Secretary to Government.

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1867, No. 1,671.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 14.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers, with reference to the Order of the 21st May 1867, No. 1,523.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers.
,, Captain Kennedy.
,, the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st May 1867.

No. 474. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, in the Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 23rd April 1867, No. 428 A :—

1. I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 734, dated 12th March 1867, furnishing explanation on certain points noticed by the Government of India in the orders on the Madras Public Works Budget estimate for 1867-68.

2. The first matter that calls for remark is that of the distribution of the grant for Communications for 1867-68 in such a manner that it will hardly produce any appreciable effect on the progress of the works now under construction. This point was noticed by the Government of India in paragraph 26 of the Budget orders for the current year, and as the grant assigned to Madras had to be reduced by a sum of Rupees 50,000, it was desired in doing this that the expenditure on works under the head Communications should be concentrated on fewer projects.

3. The Government of Madras in reply express their concurrence with the views of the Government of India, but uphold the distribution of the grant as the best that could be made under the circumstances so as to prevent work already done from deteriorating.

4. It seems to the Governor General in Council that the error in the appropriation of the Budget grant has arisen in previous years, and is due to a commencement having been made with so many new roads, for all of which it could hardly be expected that adequate grants could be assigned. The estimates for the nineteen works detailed in paragraph 26 of the Budget orders aggregate Rupees 13,62,455, out of which it was expected that Rupees 5,96,764 would have been spent by the 1st April 1867. The grant allotted for the current year is Rupees 1,65,960, at which rate the balance of Rupees 5,99,731 would, on the whole, require four years to supply, during which time, under the allotments made, nearly the whole of the nineteen works would linger on under construction, instead of the money being so laid out as to complete a few of them at once.

5. The explanation offered by the Government of Madras for this sort of assignment of funds is that it is the necessary consequence of the small grants which are allowed by the Government of India for appropriation to new works under some of the Budget heads of service. This would indicate that a better distribution of the grant cannot be made until additional funds are allowed. But I am to say that the Governor General in Council cannot recognize an originally defective allotment as a reason for making an extra grant.

6. The assignment of funds made by the Government of India in October of each year is intended to be final and fixed. It is therefore very necessary that the Budget estimates should be framed with a *bona fide* intention of utilizing the grant to the best advantage. If each Local Government were to commence a large number of road or other projects with a small appropriation of funds to each, and then represent as a reason for so doing that the Government of India had not assigned a sufficient grant, the Government of India would either have to consent to get nothing finished within a reasonable time, or to render the grants made in October illusory, and increase them to such an extent in March that the entire programme of the year as fixed in October would be abandoned, and the finances of the Department entirely disorganized. The Government of Madras will thus

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st May 1867.

perceive what a strong objection there is to making extra grants under such circumstances; and how necessary it is for the Governor General in Council to be careful to inculcate upon all the Local Governments the necessity for looking only to the grants assigned to them, and distributing them in such a manner as to produce the greatest practical benefit within the shortest time.

7. The Governor General in Council admits the force of the remark made by the Government of Madras, that a road once begun cannot be left alone without loss. But I am to suggest that the circumstances and present state of each of the road projects brought forward in the Budget estimate should be carefully reviewed, and arrangements made for stopping expenditure on some of them in future years, by expending this year only such sums as may be found necessary to prevent work already done from deteriorating, care being taken at the same time to put them into a state which will render that work of some value in opening out the lines as fair weather roads, until, by the completion of others, it will be possible to assign larger grants than can now be made.

8. In order to enable this course to be followed, the Governor General in Council will not disturb the appropriations made in the Budget estimate for 1867-68, for projects under the head Communications, but sanctions the reduction of Rupees 50,000 in the manner suggested by the Government of Madras, by cancelling the increased grants made by the Government of India, as shown in the margin, leaving the grant for minor works under Communications originally proposed reduced to the extent of Rupees 3,667 only.

9. With reference to the explanation furnished in the 6th paragraph of your letter, regarding the necessity for the large Budget provision for minor repairs of roads, I am to say that it is hoped that the Government of Madras will lose no opportunity of providing for the maintenance of the smaller roads from local funds, more especially as the large sums expended in such repairs greatly cripple the really imperial operations of the Department.

10. In the statement referred to in the 10th paragraph of your letter, allusion is made to some portion of the charges on account of concervancy establishment in the Trichinopoly District having been transferred to the Collector to be met from the irrigation cesses. I am to request that the particulars of the case may be stated, as it is against rule that charges of this kind should be made in the shape of a deduction from revenue.

11. As regards the request made in paragraph 11 of your letter for restoring the reduction of Rupees 1,35,000, made by the Government of India in the grants for minor works as per margin, I am to say that it is not desirable to follow this course at the commencement of the year. As soon as the whole of the grant is nearly appropriated, the Governor General in Council will take into consideration any proposals the Government of Madras may make for increasing it by a re-appropriation of Budget credits.

Coonoor ghaut new trace	Rs. 10,000
Excavating canal from Chilka lake to Ganjam river	20,000
Opening a canal between Negapatam and Vedarniem	20,000
Total	50,000

Military	Rs. 70,000
Civil Buildings	30,000
Miscellaneous Public Improvement	35,000
Total	1,35,000

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12. The particulars furnished regarding the scope of the different irrigation works brought forward in the Madras Budget estimate for 1867-68, contain the information the Governor General in Council desired, and I am to say that similar information should, for the future, be furnished in the Budget estimate itself. This can easily be done by a general heading being given in the Budget estimate to such of the works as may be considered as one project; and if these works were bracketted together, their connection would be easily understood.

ORDER THEREON 21st May 1867, No. 1,523.

ACCOUNT, No. 475.

2. Adverting to paragraph 8, the Government observe that the addition of Rupees 3,667 to the allocation for the Coonoor Ghaut new trace was made from savings under heads other than that of "Communications." The Budget grant for Minor Works of that class will accordingly stand at Rupees 70,000.

3. Under the orders in paragraph 11, the assignments to the undermentioned works will continue at the sums entered opposite to each:

Completing Barrack accommodation for two Batteries of Field Artillery, Madras District	Rupees 70,000
Family Quarters for two Batteries of Field Artillery, Madras District	40,000
Hospital for Race Course Barracks at Bangalore	43,038
Central Jail at Vellore	75,000
Do. at Cannanore	75,000

Paragraph 9 will be communicated to the Revenue Department for consideration.

The Government of India will be addressed on the subject of paragraph 10 (True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer,
Controller of Public Works Accounts,
Revenue Department.

Order

Order thereon 28th May 1867 N^o 1207.

Ordered that copy of the statement that accompanied the letter from this Government to the Government of India, dated 12th March 1867, and which shewed the maintenance grants for roads included in the allotments in Part III of the Imperial Budget, be furnished to the Board of Revenue, for communication to the several collectors of the entries relating to their respective districts, in view to its being ascertained and reported whether items of charge may properly be transferred in future years to Municipal or District Road Funds, in consequence of the works concerned being of merely local importance, as distinguished from trunk roads and salt roads laid out mainly in reference to revenue considerations.

2. The point should be settled without delay, so that provision may be made in the next Local Funds Budget. —

(True Extract)

J. G. M.

Under Secy to Govt.

To

The Public Works Department.

[Signature]

