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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	16127	Press Mis.
Dated	16-10-57	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th June 1871.

No. 276. Read the following letter from the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 9th June 1871, No. 255 :—

WITH reference to paragraphs 20 and 21 of the rules that accompanied the letter from the Government of India, G. O., No. 443, dated 8th February 1870. No. 24 A—R., dated 25th January 1870,

* Form No. XVII.

I have the honour to submit the statements* of the transactions of the several

Railway Companies with the Government Treasury during the official year 1870-71, with the following explanatory remarks.

MADRAS RAILWAY.

2. *Capital.*—The net disbursements during the year amounted to Rupees 22,65,235, which sum is 21·9 per cent. less than the Budget Estimate, and 9·4 per cent. less than the Regular Estimate. The receipts are less than the Budget Estimate by Rupees 1,75,235, and less than the Regular Estimate by Rupees 1,91,235, showing the former to have been the more accurate.

The advances from Treasuries are less than the Budget Estimate by Rupees 8,10,000, but only Rupees 4,26,000 less than the Regular Estimate. The cause of the difference is in the expenditure on construction not being so great as was anticipated.

3. *Revenue.*—The receipts into the Treasury on Revenue Account during 1870-71 amounted to Rupees 53,46,039 against the Budget Estimate Rs. 68,00,000, showing a decrease of Rupees 14,53,961, or 21·4 per cent. The withdrawals amounted to Rupees 28,10,000 against a sum of Rupees 29,00,000 entered in the Budget Estimate, being a decrease of Rupees 90,000, or about 3 per cent. But the withdrawals are less than the Regular Estimate by Rupees 1,15,000 or 3·9 per cent., and the receipts exceed the regular estimate by Rupees 1,46,039 or 2·8 per cent. The net receipts are Rupees 25,36,039, against the Budget Estimate Rupees 39,00,000; being about one-third less than the estimate, but exceed the Regular Estimate by Rupees 2,61,039, or 11·5 per cent.

Thus the total receipts were in the Budget Estimate very considerably overrated, the returns from traffic not having increased with a greater length of open line; but the actuals are more favourable than the figures of net receipts given in the Regular Estimate.

GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY.

4. *Capital.*—The payments from the Treasury during the year 1870-71 have exceeded the Budget Estimate by Rupees 1,55,526, (caused on account of advances made for the survey operations of the Southern Extension,) though less than the Regular Estimate by Rupees 34,474. The receipts amounted to Rupees 2,17,485, or Rupees 32,485 more than the Budget Estimate, and Rupees 17,485 in excess of the Regular Estimate. The net payments are considerably in excess of the Budget Estimate on account of advances made for the survey operations of the Southern Extension, which had not been anticipated when the Budget Estimate was prepared.

5. *Revenue.*—The receipts into the Treasury during the year amounted to Rupees 7,68,841, or about 9½ per cent. less than the Budget Estimate, Rupees 8,50,000, but exceed the Regular Estimate by Rupees 10,341. The payments on account of working expenses are Rupees 4,50,000 against the Budget Estimate Rupees 4,25,000, but are less than the Regular Estimate by Rupees 58,500. The net receipts are Rupees 3,18,841, or about 25 per cent. less than the Budget Estimate. This is attributable to the expected traffic receipts not having been realized.

CARNATIC RAILWAY.

6. *Capital.*—At the time the Budget Estimate for 1870-71 was prepared, the Capital of the Carnatic Railway had not been raised, but expenditure has been incurred in the survey of the new line to Cuddalore, and the payments from the Treasury during the year amounted to Rupees 78,132, the Regular Estimate being Rupees 65,000.

7. *Revenue.*—The receipts are 36·6 per cent. less than the Budget Estimate. The advances from the Treasury on account of working expenses are 29·3 per cent. less than the Budget Estimate. The deficiency in net receipts is due to the traffic earnings having been much over-estimated.

FORM No. XVII.

MADRAS RAILWAY.

Statement of the transactions of the Madras Railway Company with the Government Treasury during the year 1870-71, as compared with the Budget and Regular Estimates.

"CAPITAL."

	RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.			Net payments.
	Shares paid in India bearing Interest.	Receipts on Capital Account not bearing Interest.	Total Receipts.	Advances from Treasuries.			
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Budget Estimate	...	13,00,000 0 0	13,00,000 0 0	42,00,000 0 0	29,00,000 0 0	29,00,000 0 0	
Regular do.	...	13,16,000 0 0	13,16,000 0 0	38,16,000 0 0	25,00,000 0 0	25,00,000 0 0	
Actuals	...	11,24,765 4 8	11,24,765 4 8	33,90,000 0 0	22,65,234 11 4	22,65,234 11 4	
Do. as compared with Budget Estimate	...	Less 1,75,234 11 4	Less 1,75,234 11 4	Less 8,10,000 0 0	Less 6,34,765 4 8	Less 6,34,765 4 8	
Do. do. with Regular do.	...	Less 1,91,234 11 4	Less 1,91,234 11 4	Less 4,26,000 0 0	Less 2,34,765 4 8	Less 2,34,765 4 8	

"REVENUE."

	RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.			Net Receipts.	Net Profits.
	Gross traffic earnings paid into Treasury.	Refunds, etc.	Total Receipts.	Advances for working expenses.				
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Budget Estimate	...	...	68,00,000 0 0	29,00,000 0 0	39,00,000 0 0	39,00,000 0 0	...	...
Regular do.	...	...	52,00,000 0 0	29,25,000 0 0	22,75,000 0 0	22,75,000 0 0	...	...
Actuals	53,21,992 9 6	21,046 2 7	53,46,038 12 1	28,10,000 0 0	25,36,038 12 1	25,36,038 12 1	25,45,012 3 1	...
Do. as compared with Budget Estimate	...	...	Less 14,53,961 3 11	Less 90,000 0 0	Less 13,63,961 3 11	Less 13,63,961 3 11	...	...
Do. do. with Regular do.	...	...	More 1,46,038 12 1	Less 1,15,000 0 0	More 2,61,038 12 1	More 2,61,038 12 1	...	...

MADRAS,

9th June 1871.

(Signed)

H. L. PRENDERGAST, Major, R. E.,
Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.

FORM No. XVII.

GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY.

Statement of the transactions of the Great Southern of India Railway with the Government Treasury during the year 1870-71, as compared with the Budget and Regular Estimates.

"CAPITAL."

	RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	Shares paid in India bearing Interest.	Receipts on Capital account not bearing Interest.	Total Receipts.	Advances from Treasuries.	Net Payments.	
Budget Estimate ...	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Regular do. ...	.....	1,85,000 0 0	1,85,000 0 0	2,35,000 0 0	50,000 0 0	
Actuals ...	.....	2,00,000 0 0	2,00,000 0 0	4,25,000 0 0	2,25,000 0 0	
	.....	2,17,484 15 0	2,17,484 15 0	3,90,525 15 8	1,73,041 0 8	
Do. as compared with Budget Estimate ...	More	32,484 15 0	More	More	More	
Do. do. Regular do. ...	More	17,484 15 0	More	Less	Less	
	.....	.....	17,484 15 0	34,474 0 4	51,958 15 4	

"REVENUE."

	RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	Gross traffic earnings paid into Treasury.	Refunds, etc.	Total Receipts.	Advances for working expenses.	Net Receipts.	Net Profits.
Budget Estimate ...	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Regular do. ...	.....	.....	8,50,000 0 0	4,25,000 0 0	4,25,000 0 0	.....
Actuals ...	.....	9,274 12 11	7,58,500 0 0	5,08,500 0 0	2,50,000 0 0	.....
	7,59,565 15 1	.....	7,68,840 12 0	4,50,000 0 0	3,18,840 12 0	3,15,893 8 6
Do. as compared with Budget Estimate.	.....	.....	Less	More	Less	.....
Do. do. Regular do. ...	.....	.....	81,159 4 0	25,000 0 0	1,06,159 4 0	.....
	.....	.....	More	Less	More	.....
	.....	.....	10,340 12 0	58,500 0 0	68,840 12 0	.....

MADRAS,

9th June 1871.

(Signed) H. L. PRENDERGAST, Major, R.E.,
Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th June 1871.

FORM No. XVII.

CARNATIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

Statement of the transactions of the Carnatic Railway Company with the Government Treasury during the year 1870-71, as compared with the Budget and Regular Estimates.

"CAPITAL."

	RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	Shares paid in India bearing Interest.	Receipts on Capital Account not bearing Interest.	Total Receipts.	Advances from Treasuries.	Net Payments.	
Budget Estimate ...	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Regular do. ...	.....	20,000 0 0	20,000 0 0	65,000 0 0	45,000 0 0	
Actuals ...	.....	20,351 7 11	20,351 7 11	78,132 0 0	57,780 8 1	
Do. as compared with Budget Estimate ...	More	351 7 11	More	More	More	
Do. do. with Regular do. ...	More	351 7 11	More	More	More	
	.....	.....	351 7 11	13,132 0 0	12,780 8 1	

"REVENUE."

	RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	Gross traffic earnings paid into Treasury.	Refunds, etc.	Total Receipts.	Advances for working expenses.	Net Receipts.	Net Profits.
Budget Estimate ...	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Regular do. ...	.....	.....	55,000 0 0	43,000 0 0	12,000 0 0	.....
Actuals ...	.....	309 12 6	34,000 0 0	26,500 0 0	7,500 0 0	.....
	34,539 10 8	.....	34,849 7 2	30,400 0 0	4,449 7 2	338 9 5
Do. as compared with Budget Estimate	.....	.....	Less	Less	Less	.....
Do. do. with Regular do. ...	.....	.....	20,150 8 10	12,600 0 0	7,550 8 10	.....
	.....	.....	More	More	Less	.....
	.....	.....	849 7 2	3,900 0 0	3,050 8 10	.....

MADRAS,

9th June 1871.

(Signed) H. L. PRENDERGAST, Major, R.E.,
Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th June 1871.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th June 1871.*

FORM XVII.

MADRAS RAILWAY.

Loss and Gain by Exchange.

							Loss.			Gain.		
							RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Budget Estimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,41,600	0	0	3,25,000	0	0
Regular do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,08,350	0	0	1,89,400	0	0
Actuals	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,88,769	9	1	2,11,336	9	0
Do. as compared with Budget Estimate							Less by			Less by		
							52,830	6	11	1,13,663	7	0
Do. do. Regular do.							Less by			More by		
							19,580	6	11	21,736	9	0

Guaranteed Interest payable in India.

NIL.

MADRAS,
9th June 1871.

(Signed) H. L. PRENDERGAST, Major, R.E.,
Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.

FORM XVII.

GREAT SOUTHERN OF INDIA RAILWAY.

Loss and Gain by Exchange.

							Loss.			Gain.		
							RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Budget Estimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,200	0	0	35,500	0	0
Regular do.	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,750	0	0	20,800	0	0
Actuals	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,420	1	6	26,570	1	0
Do. as compared with Budget Estimate							More by			Less by		
							10,220	1	6	8,929	15	0
Do. do. with Regular do.							Less by			More by		
							4,329	14	6	5,770	1	0

Guaranteed Interest payable in India.

NIL.

MADRAS,
9th June 1871.

(Signed) H. L. PRENDERGAST, Major, R.E.,
Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.

FORM XVII.

CARNATIC RAILWAY.

Loss and Gain by Exchange.

NIL.

Guaranteed Interest payable in India.

NIL.

MADRAS,
9th June 1871.

(Signed) H. L. PRENDERGAST, Major, R.E.,
Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

Railway Department.

No. 255

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th June 1871.*

No. 277.

ORDER THEREON, 16th June 1871, No. 1,623.

RAILWAY, No. 36.

ORDERED that these papers be forwarded to the Government of India:—

(Here enter No. 1,624, dated 16th June 1871.)

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways.

January 1870, I have the honour
to submit the Statement, of the
transactions of the several Railway
Companies with the Government
Treasury.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

Railway Department.

No. 255

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE, 16th June 1871.

No. 278.

No. 1,624.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

RAILWAY, No. 37.

SIR,—With reference to the rules
circulated by the Government of India
with their Resolution dated 25th

January 1870, No. 24 A—R., I am directed to forward statements of the transac-
tions of the several Railway Companies with the Government Treasury during
the year 1870-71, together with the Consulting Engineer's explanatory remarks.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

January 1870, I have the honour
to submit the Statement, of the
transactions of the several Railway
Companies with the Government
Treasury.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

Railway Department.

No. 255

From

Major J. P. Perceval, R.E.,
Consulting Engineer for Railways,

To

Colonel J. B. Harbord, R.E.,
Secretary to Government,

Public Works Department,

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

With reference to paragraphs
20 and 21 of the rules that accompa-
nyed the letter from the Government
dated 8th February 1870.

G.O. No. 443,
of India, N. 24. A. O., dated 25th
January 1870, I have the honour
to submit the Statement, of the
transactions of the several Railway
Companies with the Government.

Treasury

Treasury during the Official year 1870-71, with the following explanatory remarks.

Madras Railway.

2. Capital. The net disbursements during the year amounted to Rs 22,65,235 which sum is 21.9 percent less than the Budget estimate, and 9.4 per cent less than the regular estimate. The receipts were less than the Budget estimate by Rs 1,75,235, and less than the regular estimate by Rs 1,91,235; showing the former to have been the more accurate.

The advances from Trunk are less than the Budget estimate by Rs 8,10,000: but only Rs 4,26,000

less

less than the regular estimate. The cause of the difference is in the expenditure in construction not being so great as was anticipated.

3. Revenue. The receipts into the Treasury on Revenue Account, during 1870-71, amounted to Rs 53,46,839 against the Budget estimate Rs 68,00,000, showing a decrease of Rs 14,53,161, or 21.4 per cent. The withdrawals amounted to Rs 28,10,000 against a sum of Rs 29,00,000 entered in the Budget Estimate, being a decrease of Rs 90,000, or about 3 percent. But the withdrawals are less than the regular estimate by Rs 1,15,000 or 3.9 percent: and the receipts exceed the regular

regular estimate by Rs 1,46,039 or 2.8 per cent. The net receipts are Rs 253,039, against the Budget estimate Rs 39,00,000, being about 1/3 less than the estimate, but exceed the regular estimate by Rs 2,61,039 or 11.5 per cent.

Thus the total receipts, were in the Budget estimate, very considerably overestimated; the returns from traffic not having increased with a greater length of open line, but the actuals are more favourable than the figures of net receipts given in the regular estimate.

Great Southern of India Railway.

4. Capital. The payments from the Treasury during the year 1870-71 have exceeded the Budget Estimate by

Rs

Rs 1,55,526 (deducted in account of advances made for the Survey operations of the Southern Extension), though less than the Regular Estimate by Rs 34,474. The receipts amounted to Rs 2,17,485 or Rs 32,485 more than the Budget estimate, and Rs 17,485 in excess of the regular estimate. The net payments are considerably in excess of the Budget estimate on account of advances made for the Survey operations of the Southern extension; which had not been anticipated when the Budget estimate was prepared.

5. Revenue. The receipts into the Treasury, during the year, amounted to Rs 7,68,841 or about 9 1/2 per cent less than the Budget estimate, Rs 8,50,000, but ex-

-ceed

Capital. At the time the Budget Estimate for 1870-71 was prepared, the Capital of the Cornatic Railway had not been raised, but expenditure had been incurred in the Survey of the new line to Gudalore, and the payments from the Treasury during the year amounted

7. Revenue. The receipts are 36.6 per cent less than the Budget Estimate. The advances from the Treasury, on account of working expenses are 29.3 per cent less than the Budget Estimate. The deficiency in net receipts is due to the traffic earnings having been much over-estimated.---

Yours most obedient servant
Chas Loring Esq. Major
Adj. Genl. Bengal for Railways.

Madras
 7th June 1871

Form No. XVIII.

Madras Railway.

Statement of the transactions of the Madras Railway Company with the Government Treasury during the year 1870-71 as compared with the Budget and Regular Estimates.

Capital.

	Receipts			Payments		Net Payments.
	Share paid in Dividend bearing interest	Receipts on Capital account not bearing interest	Total Receipts	Advances from Treasury		
Budget estimate	.	1300000	1300000	1200000	200000	
Regular estimate	.	1316000	1316000	1000000	200000	
Actuals	.	1321754	1321754	1000000	221754	
Actuals as compared with Budget estimate	.	175234	175234	000000	175234	
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate	.	105754	105754	000000	105754	

Revenue.

	Receipts			Payments		Net Receipts	Profits
	Gross traffic earnings paid into Treasury	Refunds &c.	Total Receipts	Advances for working expenses			
Budget estimate			680000	290000	390000		
Regular estimate			530000	292500	237500		
Actuals	552100	214162	531633	281000	253633	281000	281000
Actuals as compared with Budget estimate			145361	90000	136361		
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate			146038	115000	261038		

Madras }
9th June 1871

Lawrence Dargatz. Major Q.R.
Asst. Commr. Engineer for Railways.

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17/6/64

Form No. XVII.

Great Southern of India Railway.

Statement of the transactions of the Great Southern of India Railway with the Government Treasury during the year 1870-71 as compared with the Budget and Regular Estimates.

Capital.

	Receipts		Payments	Net
	Share paid in India leaving balance	Receipts on Capital account not bearing interest	Advances from Treasury	
Budget estimate	185000	185000	225000	50000
Regular estimate	200000	200000	425000	225000
Actuals	217611	217611	525000	170341
Actuals as compared with Budget estimate	more	more	more	more
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate	324741	324741	525000	170341
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate	more	more	less	less
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate	174741	174741	34741	519815

Revenue

	Receipts		Payments	Net
	Earnings from traffic	Receipts from Government	Advances for working expenses	
Budget estimate		850000	425000	425000
Regular estimate		788500	508500	280000
Actuals	759565	921112	450000	518812
Actuals as compared with Budget estimate		less	more	less
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate		811594	25000	1061594
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate		more	less	more
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate		103140	58500	6884012

Madras }
9th June 1871

Lawrence Herbert Major CB,
Ag. Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a letter or document, starting with "Handwritten text in a cursive script..."

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Form No. 1.

Carnatic Railway Company.

Statement of the transactions of the Carnatic Railway Company with the Government Treasury during the year 1890-91 as compared with Budget and Regular estimates.

Capital.

	Receipts			Payments		Net Payments.
	Share paid in Excess bearing interest	Receipts on Capital account not bearing interest	Total Receipts	Advances from Treasuries		
Budget estimate	.	.	.	.	.	.
Regular estimate	"	2000	2000	6500	4500	Payments
Actuals	.	20351	20351	78132	57780	81
Actuals as compared with Budget estimate.	.	more	more	more	more	81
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate.	.	351	351	18132	12780	81

Revenue

	Receipts			Net	
	Gross traffic earnings paid into Treasury	Excess of Receipts	Advances for working expenses	Receipts	Profits
Budget estimate	.	.	.	.	.
Regular estimate	.	55000	42000	12000	.
Actuals	34539 10	309 12	30400	4449 72	338 95
Actuals as compared with Budget estimate	.	more	less	less	.
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate.	.	20150 8 10	12600	7550 8 10	.
	.	more	more	less	.
	.	849 7 2	3900	3050 8 10	.

Madras }
9th June 1891

New Windsor

Major R. S. Ag. Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Form XVII.

Machras Railway. Less and Gain by Exchange.

	Less	Gain
Budget estimate	241,600	325,000
Regular estimate	205,350	189,600
Actuals	188,969 91	20,336 9
Actuals compared with Budget estimate	less by 53,830 6	less by 113,663 7
do do Regular estimate	less by 19,580 6	more by 21,736 9

Guaranteed Interest payable in India.

Machras
9th June 1871

Charles Rendel Esq. Major R.E.
Sg. Cons. Eng. for Railways.

Received of the
Machras Railway Co.
the sum of Rs. 14,694
on account of the
interest payable on the
loan of Rs. 10,00,000
for the purpose of
constructing the
Machras Railway.

14/6/71

Received of
the sum of Rs. 14,694
on account of the
interest payable on the
loan of Rs. 10,00,000
for the purpose of
constructing the
Machras Railway.

Received of the
Machras Railway Co.
the sum of Rs. 14,694
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interest payable on the
loan of Rs. 10,00,000
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constructing the
Machras Railway.

Received of the
Machras Railway Co.
the sum of Rs. 14,694
on account of the
interest payable on the
loan of Rs. 10,00,000
for the purpose of
constructing the
Machras Railway.

Form XVII.
G.S. of I. Railway. Loss and Gain by Exchange.

	Loss	Gain
Budget estimate	4200 . .	35500 . .
Regular estimate	18750 . .	20800 . .
Actuals	14420 1 6 more by	26570 1 6 less by
Actuals as compared with Budget estimate	10220 1 6 less by	8929 15 . more by
Actuals as compared with Regular estimate	4329 14 6	5770 1 .

Guaranteed Interest payable in India.

Madras }
9th June 1871

H. W. Wendegast Major Q.B.
Sg. Comd. Engrs. for Railways.

M. 2696/71

Term ~~XVII~~.
 Carnation Railway. Loss and Gain by Exchange.

9

Guaranteed Interest payable in India.

Uw. Vriende g. Major R.
 Ag. Coms. Eng. fort Railways.

11:1623. O. M. S.
Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Read the following

From,
The Regional Engineer (H. E. No. 25589 June 17/77) ⁽⁷⁾
for Railways

Ordered that these
papers be forwarded to
the Secy to the Govt of India.

Despatch 17/6/77. To. No 1624.

The Secy to the Govt of
India P. M. S.

Sir

With reference to the
rules circulated by the
Govt of India with their
Resolution dated 23rd
January 1870. No. 24. P. M. S.
I am directed to forward
statements of the transac-
tions of the several Railways

P. M. 2696/77

Santhosh
L. P. 10/10/77

Santhosh
L. P. 10/10/77

Companies with the Govt
Treasury during the year
1870/71, together with the
Govt Engineers explanatory
remarks.

13th

Recd 14/10/71
From the Engineers

Cost of (1871) 34 adms.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Hon. Consulting Engineer
for Railways
to the Secretary to the Govt.
of India

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 6

G. O. B. No. 1871, No. 1623-1624

Nos. 27/277+278

[Faint handwritten text, likely a signature or official stamp, mostly illegible due to fading.]