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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

R. R Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2116 Press ~~Mis.~~

206-07

Dated 17 8 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 17th August 1871.

No. 206. Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account—General,) to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab; the Chief Commissioners of Oudh, the Central Provinces, British Burmah, and Mysore and Coorg; the Resident at Hyderabad; the Agents to the Governor-General for Central India and Rajpootana; and the Superintendent of Port Blair, dated Simla, 22nd July 1871, No. 41.—

I AM directed to forward, for an expression of the opinion of the Government of Madras, a note by the Accountant-General, Public Works Department, suggesting that the officers who are at present assigned the responsibility of appropriating for expenditure on minor works and repairs, should have the option of transferring that responsibility, at such time and for such length of time, as they may choose to some other officer, such as the Controller of Departmental Accounts.

Note by Lieutenant-Colonel J J McLEOD INNES, R. E, Accountant-General, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 15th July 1871

INSPECTION of the Statements of Objectionable Items, and of reports on the same subjects, shows that a very large proportion of cases that have to be reported as irregular is owing to omissions in appropriation, when there is no question that the expenditure involved must be incurred, and that the failure to make provision or appropriation is due to dilatoriness or delay on the part of those officers who either have to apply for appropriation or to sanction it The allotments for repairs are assigned to the Superintending Engineers, and those for minor works are either wholly reserved by the heads of the Local Governments or Administrations, or only partly so, the remainder being assigned to various local or departmental authorities The cases I refer to are, either when the Executive Engineers, where the estimate for work is all right but there is no provision, delay reporting the requirement for appropriation, or when they report the requirement but the Superintending Engineers or Secretaries put off making the appropriation.

2 Doubtless, it is troublesome to these officers to have to attend to such matters, the importance of which seems to them slight when there can be apparently no doubt whatever that there is plenty of money available, and that the individual cases do not require adjustment for some time to come Experience, however, proves that it is quite necessary that these adjustments and appropriations should not be so deferred, but be made before or when the work is commenced; and the suggestion that presents itself is whether these officers who find the matter thus troublesome, should not have the option given them of delegating the duty to some one else, such as the Controller, for such time as they may wish.

3. I think that this idea might be circulated for opinion and for adoption in the event of the Local Government or Administration approving All such transfers of power of appropriation should be formally made, and the Controller be fully empowered to check or absolutely stop, if needful, all expenditure which, in such cases, is to be provided for by him but has not been sent up for such provision.

4. When the Secretaries or Superintending Engineers reject this arrangement, then there will be much less room for excuse if they do not appropriate promptly and act up to the responsibility they have retained.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th August 1871.

No. 207. ORDER THEREON, 7th August 1871, No. 2,116.

ACCOUNT, No. 21.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineers for report on the suggestion of the Accountant-General, Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To Superintending Engineers
,, Major R B. Kennedy
To the Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation
,, Controller of Public Works Account

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

ACCOUNT.
General

To

THE GOVERNMENTS OF MADRAS, BOMBAY, BENGAL, THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, AND THE PUNJAB, THE CHIEF COMMISSIONERS OF OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES, BRITISH BURMAH, AND MYSORE AND COORG, THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD, THE AGENTS OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR CENTRAL INDIA AND RAJPOOTANA, AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PORT BLAIR.

CIRCULAR No. 41 PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated Simla, 22nd July 1871.

Received 4 August

Requests opinion on the Accountant General's suggestion that officers at present responsible for appropriating for expenditure on minor works may transfer that responsibility to the Controller or other officers.

Cfr 3718

Govt of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr

Dated

Recd Read

G O 17th Augt. No 2116.

Nos. 206 & 207.

Expenditure on Minor Works.

Circular from the Govt of India requesting an opinion on the Accountant's suggestion that Officers at present responsible for appropriating for expenditure on minor works may transfer that responsibility to the Accountant or other Officers, Comd to the Superintendent for report.