

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 11081/409	1-561	Press Mis.
Dated	27.6	1872

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 408. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 5th June 1872, No. 554 :—

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice the very hard case of office subordinates, more particularly those attached to the Superintending Engineers' Offices, in the matter of travelling batta.

I would point out—

1st.—That the calculation of the batta due to them is based upon no logical principle at all.

2nd.—That they are not so liberally treated as office subordinates in the Revenue Department, who have not to undergo a tithe of the travelling and hardship inseparable from this department.

2. With regard to the first, an office subordinate can only draw three-tenths of his salary; in the case of a native drawing 70 Rupees per mensem, or upwards, the allowance may about cover his expenses; in the case of a man drawing 25 or 30 Rupees per mensem it is evident that the allowance is utterly insufficient, for, as travels the one, so must also the other, it being impossible to provide a style of conveyance in accordance with various rates of pay. This I think must be conceded.

3. With regard to the second point, a Revenue office servant drawing 30 Rupees per mensem is allowed batta at the rate of 8 Annas per diem and two days' batta for any day in which 10 miles or upwards is travelled; a Department Public Works office servant, on the same pay, cannot draw more than three-tenths of his salary or 9 Rupees per mensem, or only 60 per cent. of what is drawn by the other, with no allowance for excess over a certain distance travelled.

4. I would now beg specially to point out that the distinction, if any be made, should be all the other way, and I would here beg it may be understood that I refer only to clerks of the Superintending Engineers' Offices, as there is little occasion for Range Office Clerks to travel, and even when they do their case is by no means so hard as the other.

5. The clerk or clerks in attendance with the Superintending Engineer's camp have to travel probably eight months during the year; they are away from head-quarters six weeks, two months, or even longer, at one time, moving almost daily, and for this work, which cannot be characterized as other than hard, all that a clerk on 30 Rupees per mensem is allowed is 9 Rupees.

6. The case would not be so hard, though still deserving relief, could all the clerks in turn be taken on circuit; but owing to the nature of their duties it is extremely inconvenient to devolve the circuit duty on any but two, the Head Clerk and the copyist (30 Rupees).

7. The result is that the Superintending Engineer knowing well that the latter suffers in pocket from having to travel, almost invariably takes the Head Clerk* with him. Every one knows

* 70 Rupees per mensem.

that travelling is extremely distasteful to office subordinates, and quite lately the Head Clerk in my office begged Colonel Moberly to give him a Range Accountantship (60 Rupees per month), thus prefer-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th June 1872.*

ring to sacrifice 10 Rupees per month to retaining his present post which is attended with constant travelling.

8. On a review of the whole case, I think it very unfair that the Public Works Department, perhaps the hardest worked in the service, should be placed at a disadvantage, as compared with another (in which travelling is very light and easy) in the matter of travelling batta. The case of Circuit Clerks in Superintending Engineers' Offices may, I think, well receive special consideration, for, as regards Range Office servants, there is little or no occasion for them to travel at all; it need therefore put Government to a most trifling extra expense to grant what I ask what will be regarded as a great boon by a very small number of deserving Government servants. All I ask is that the clerk who accompanies the Superintending Engineer on circuit may be allowed to draw the same batta as the Head Clerk, i.e., for a full month's travelling 21 Rupees per mensem, which (I may mention) in this very expensive district will not pay for a bandy.

9. In conclusion I would point out that in granting this boon, Government sacrifices virtually nothing, as there is nothing to prevent the Superintending Engineer always taking with him the Head Clerk at a cost to Government of Three-tenths of 70 Rupees, Head Clerk's salary. Rupees 21 per mensem; from this may result the loss to the department of able men, who have worked their way up in it, but, under present circumstances, this seems unavoidable.

10. I earnestly beg the consideration of Government to this matter, not only on the ground that positive hardship, not to say injustice, is well deserving of relief, but also because the Public Works Department is regarded with any thing but favour by the aspirants for public employment; if not already so, it is fast becoming regarded as a subordinate department, out of which men are glad to exchange into the Revenue and other departments even at a loss of salary.

No. 409.

ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1872, No. 1,561.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 29.

As the rules under which clerks of the Public Works Department are permitted to draw travelling allowance

equal to three-tenths of their salaries in lieu of batta have been sanctioned by the Supreme Government, and are in operation throughout India, His Excellency the Governor in Council is not prepared to entertain the proposals contained in the letter recorded at the head of these Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.

Exd S. T. Augustin.

No. 554

Superintending Engineer's Office...

3rd Division.

Bellary 5 June 1872

From,

The Superintending Engineer

3rd Division.

To,

The Secretary to Government

P.W. Department

Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to your notice the very hard case of Office Subordinates, more particularly those attached to the Superintending Engineer's Office in the matter of Travelling Batta.

I would point out:—

1st That the calculation of the Batta due to them is based upon no logical principle at all.

2nd That they are not so liberally treated as Office Subordinates in the Revenue Department who have not to undergo a tithe of the Travelling and hardships inseparable from this Department.

2. With regard to the 1st, an Office Subordinate can only draw $\frac{3}{10}$ of his salary; in the case of a Native drawing 70 Rs per mensem, or upwards, the allowance

Enclosures.

allowance may about cover his expenses, in the case of a man drawing 25 or 30 Rupees per mensem, it is evident that the allowance is utterly insufficient, for, as travels the one, so must also the other, it being impossible to provide a style of conveyance in accordance with various rates of pay. This, I think must be conceded.

3. With regard to the second point a Revenue Office Servant drawing 30 Rs per mensem is allowed Batta at the rate of 8% per diem and 2 days Batta for any day on which 10 miles or upwards is travelled, a D. P. W. Office Servant on the same pay cannot draw more than $\frac{3}{10}$ th of his salary or 9 Rs per mensem, or only 6% per Cent of what is drawn by the other with no allowance for extra or a certain distance travelled.

4. I would now beg specially to point out that the distinction, if any be made, should be all the other way, and I would here beg it may be understood that I refer only to Clerks of the Superintending Engineers' Office, as there is little occasion for Range Office Clerks to travel, and even when they do, their case is by no means so hard as the other.

5. The Clerk or Clerks in attendance with the Superintending Engineer's Camp have to travel probably 8 months during the year; they are away from Head Quarters 6 weeks, 2 months, or even longer at one time, moving almost daily for this work, which cannot be characterized.

characterized as other than hard, all that a Clerk on 30 Rs per mensem is allowed is 9 Rupees.

6. The case would not be so hard, though still deserving relief, could all the Clerks in turn be taken on circuit, but owing to the nature of their duties, it is extremely inconvenient to devolve the circuit duty on any but two, the Head Clerk and the Copyist (30 Rs).

7. The result is, that the Supty. Engineer knowing well that the latter suffers in pocket from having to travel, almost invariably takes the Head Clerk with him. Everyone knows that Travelling is extremely distasteful to Office Subordinates, and quite lately the Head Clerk in my Office begged Colonel Moberly to give him a Range Accountantship (60 Rs per month) thus preferring to sacrifice 10 Rs per month to retaining his present post which is attended with constant Travelling.

8. On a review of the whole case I think it very unfair that the R. H. Department, perhaps the hardest worked in the service, should be placed at a disadvantage, as compared with another, (in which Travelling is very light and easy) in the matter of Travelling Batta. The case of Circuit Clerks in Superintending Engineers' Offices may I think well receive special consideration, for, as regards Range Office Clerks, there is little or no occasion for them to travel at all.

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extra expense to grant what I ask - what will be regarded
as a great boon by a very small number of deserving
Government Servants. All I ask is that the Clerk
who accompanies the Superintending Engineer or architect
may be allowed to draw the same Ration as the Head
Clerk - i. e. for a full month's Travelling Expenses
per mensem which (I may mention) in this very ex-
pensive District will not pay for a bandy.

9. In conclusion, I would point out that in granting this boon, Government sacrifices virtually nothing, as there is nothing to prevent the Superintending Engineer always taking with him the Head Clerk, &c. at a cost to Government of Rs 21 per mensem; from this may ^{3/10th of} result the loss to the Department of able men, who ^{Head &} have worked their way up in it but under present cir- ^{Do} cumstances this seems unavoidable.

10. Earnestly by the consideration of Government to this matter, not only on the ground that positive hardship, not to say injustice, is well deserving of relief, but also because the W. W. Department is regarded with any thing but favor by the aspirants for public employment; if not already so, it is fast becoming regarded as a Subordinate Department, out of which

men are glad to exchange into the Revenue & other
Departments - even at a loss of salary. Y

I have the honor to be

Dr.

Your most Obedt. Servant.

James Fortin Captain R.E.
Off. Superintendency Engineer 3^d Div.

Off. Superintending Engineer 3^d Div.

India, His Excellency
the Governor in Council
is not prepared to
entertain the proposals
contained in the letter
recorded at the head
of these Proceedings.

4/11/72

which will be
the result of the
proposals made
at the meeting
of the 22nd Decr.
The Propos. Engrs 3rd Div.
Desp 3/7/72.

Ct-2835
Govt. of 1872 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Superintendent
Engrs 3rd Division

Dated

Recd.

Encl

G. O 27 Dec 1872, No. 1561.

Nos. 4287-4289

Travelling Allowance.

Proposal to grant an in-
creased rate of travelling
allowance to the Junior
Clerk of the Office of the
Incharge of the 3rd Divn,
declined.