

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	591	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	6 - 3 - 1874	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th March 1874.*

No. 147. Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., District Engineer, Chingleput, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Guindy, 10th February 1874, No. 3,011:—

I HAVE the honour to request that I may be informed, whether by Local Fund Rule XLI. it is intended that the Controller of Public Works Accounts shall supply executive agents other than Public Works Officers with funds direct or through Range Officers.

2. The following case has caused this reference. Under Local Fund Rule XL., the duty of carrying out the work of the road from Chingleput to Surappen's choultry was transferred, with the approval of Government, from Public Works to the Revenue Department. I hold that I have no further concern with this work. Government order sanctioning its execution has not been communicated to me, but I believe it has been sent to the Collector.

3. The Local Fund Board President reading Rule XLI. as I do, applied to the Controller for Rupees 10,000, and that officer desired the Executive Engineer to send a cheque for the amount. By departmental rules the Executive Engineer applies to me every month to have such sums placed to his credit as he thinks he can expend within the month, and the District Engineer is called upon to prevent any excessive demands. I happened to be with Mr. Lowry in camp, and on his showing me the Controller's letter, I desired him not to pay it, and myself called the Controller's attention to Rule XLI.—protested against his sending direct to the Range Officer an order to pay so large a sum of money as was liable considerably to hamper him in making payments for his own work, and this without any notice to us, either of sanction for the road having been accorded, or of the probability of so large a demand being made; as the road had only just been begun, if indeed it was begun at all, it was impossible that any money could be really due.

4. The Controller however insists on this course being pursued, and I have desired Mr. Lowry to send the Sub-Collector a cheque; but very great difficulty may occur if such a demand is made as suddenly toward the end of the year. I enclose copies of the letters which have passed, for reference. I fail to understand why my Range Officer should be treasury officer to another department, in favour of whom, according to this precedent, our rules are suspended.

5. Any comparison between our work and that of the Revenue Agent will be very unfair if this be admitted. The Local Fund Board have blamed us for the delay in executing the work, which was really to be attributed to our not having received any sanction.

No. 148. ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1874, No. 591.

ACCOUNT, No. 5.

THE District Engineer of Chingleput has imperfectly read Local Fund Rule No. XLI., referred to in his letter. It states that the Controller is to supply the Civil Agent entrusted with the execution

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th March 1874.*

of a Local Fund work as he does in the case of expenditure of Public Works Funds (Imperial or Provincial) by civil officers. If Colonel Moberly was not already aware how the latter funds were supplied, he should have accepted the Controller's explanation of the method.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Govt. of 1874 Adm.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, CHINGLEPUT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 6th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 6th March 1874, No. 591.

MARCH

No. 1 7-143

The District Engineer of Chingleput
inform all how funds are provided for the
execution of Local Fund Works.

No. 2857

Ching! District Eng's Office
Camp Chingleput 22nd Jan 74

From,

The District Engineer
Chingleput

To,

The Controller
of Public Works Accounts

Sir,

I have the honor to call your
attention to Local Fund Rule 25.1, laying
down the course to be pursued in regard
to works executed by other agency for Local
Fund Board. Even the sanction for the
road from Chingleput to Socrappe's Choul-
try has not been communicated to me.
I am particularly anxious to avoid any
imputation of causing obstruction to the
Revenue Officers, or I would not address
you on a subject which has only come to
my notice indirectly through your No. 153
of 16th January 1874, addressed to the
President of the Local Fund Board,
Chingleput District and forwarded by
Deputy Collector in Charge Treasury to
Mr. Lowry.

I have &c.
/ Signed / F. J. Mollerly Col. &c.
District Eng. Ching!

N^o. 312

Office of the Controller of P. M. Accounts
Fort Saint George 27th June 1874

From,
The Off^r. Controller of P. M. Accounts
To,
The District Engineer Chingleput
Sir,

With reference to your letter N^o. 2857 of the 22nd instant regarding the road from Chingleput to Boorappan's Choultry and funds for the same, I have the honor to refer you to item 8 part I of the Current year's Budget a copy of which was forwarded to you with the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue N^o. 1245 of the 10th July last. I beg also to refer you to my N^o. 299, of the 16th August last intimating that funds had been placed at your disposal for the above and other works.

2 The intention of Local Fund Rule (XLI) to which you refer, in respect to funds, is simply that the Controller shall arrange to supply Civil Officers with funds for Public Works, and does not require that this should be done without the intervention of Executive Engineers or Range Officers as supposed by Mr.

Mr. Executive Engineer Lowry who has also addressed me on the subject. It is a standing rule of the Department that funds to Civil Officers entrusted with the execution of Public Works, should be supplied by the nearest Executive Engineer and it is to be regretted that Mr. Lowry did not comply with the request of the President of the Local Fund Board, supported as that request was by a copy of my letter N^o. 153, of the 16th instant, allowing me that I had not followed the correct course, the responsibility would not have been Mr. Lowry's but mine, and it would have been for me to correct the mistake and adjust the outlay. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to Mr. Lowry.

I am &c.
/Signed/ J. Mof
Off^r. Cont. of P. M. Accounts.

N^o. 2921.

Chief Dist. Engin Office
Camp Thundalim 30th June 74

From, The District Engineer Chingleput
To, The Controller of
Public Works Accounts

Sir,

In reply to your N^o. 312 dated 27th instant, I have the honor to point out that Rule XI.1 most distinctly desires that you shall supply the persons entrusted with the execution of the work specially taken under Rule XI from the D. P. M. with funds. The Government have not thought it necessary to inform me even of sanction being accorded for the road from Chingleput to Surappur's Choultry, and I should have had no control whatever over the funds allotted for this road even if it had been left in my charge.

The Revenue Officers have not sent me any estimate of funds required for this road, and under ordinary circumstances, Mr. Lowry would not have had at his credit funds sufficient to meet such a demand as this of Rs. 10,000 thus suddenly made. As it is he has been prevented from measuring and making payments for irrigation repairs, by my having taken him to other duty, and I have desired him to give a cheque from his cash balance but this will materially affect his own arrangements.

Whatever may be the ordinary rules of the Department I hold that Rule XI.1 clearly makes an exception as to the supply being direct by you. in any case I believe that I am warranted in protesting against your desiring one of my range officers to make a payment for which neither he nor I have made any provision in our estimate. I am prepared to undertake the responsibility of Mr. Lowry's procedure carried out by my advice. If he had been in want of money for his own expenditure, I should not hesitate again to decline to allow him to hamper himself by giving away his money to the Revenue Department who have not warned us as to their having any need of this supply. I cannot but feel it hard that while the members of the Department Public Works are bound by Rules they are suspended or cast aside by the Revenue officers.

There could not have been much inconvenience from a few days delay as the work is I am told being executed by Contractors, unless the Sub Collector is giving advances which we are forbidden to do.

I have &c.
(Signed) J. J. Molerby Col^l
District Eng^r Chingleput

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I have &c.
(Signed) J. J. Molerby Col^l
District Eng^r Chingleput

No. 18

Office of the Controller of P. M. Accounts
Fort Saint George 3rd Feb'y 1874

From,

The Off^r Controller of P. M. Accounts

To,

The District Engineer Chingleput.

Sir,

I regret to find from your letter No. 2921 of the 30th January last, that the explanation given in my letter No. 312, of the 27th idem has not satisfied you, as to the correctness of the course followed by me in arranging to place funds at the disposal of the President of the Local Fund Board Chingleput District. I can only repeat what has already been stated in the 2nd para of my letter above quoted.

2 So long as a Civil Officer is placed in funds by the Public Works Department to enable him to carry out work under Local Fund Rule xvi, it is immaterial to the Civil Department what means the Controller of Public Works Accounts employs for the purpose. I have already told you of the Standing Rules on the subject and I may add that in no case has the Controller of Public Works Accounts, Madras, placed funds at the disposal of Civil Officers in the direct

direct manner which you consider necessary. It may often happen that the Range Officer will have to apply for a supplementary credit to meet the demands of Civil Officers, but whether such a course be necessary or no, it must be remembered that in meeting the demands of Civil Officers, a District Engineer or Range Officer in no way loses or relinquishes any portion of the sum allotted for expenditure by the Agency of the Public Works Dept^o. The expenditure incurred by a Civil Officer on Public Works does not form a charge against the Range from which he may have received funds, and, in point of fact, the Range Officer is, to the Civil Officer entrusted with the execution of Public Works, what the Treasury Officer is to the Range Officer.

3 In the present case the President of the Local Fund Board having satisfied me that the Government had sanctioned the transfer of the construction of the Road to the Civil Department, I told him to apply to the Range Officer for funds, not only because this was the proper course, but because funds for the road in question had

had been placed at the disposal of the Public Works Department by the Accountant General of Madras.

4 If you still think that a different course should have been followed, I beg that you will address Government on the subject, sending on my letters with your reference.

I have &c
Signed / J. Mops
Offg. Contro. of P. W. Accounts.

(True Copies)

H. Moberly. Col. R.E.
District Eng. Chingleput.

P. M. 202/74
15/6/11
on 11/11/11

591 Str. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following:-

From

The District Engineer

Chingleput

(H. E. 2230/11 & 10th July 1874)

The District Engineer of Chingleput has imperfectly read Local Fund Rule ^{XL} referred to in his letter. It states that the Comptroller is to supply the Civil Agent entrusted with the execution of a Local Fund work as he does in the case of expenditure of Public Works Funds (Imperial or Provincial) by Civil officers. If Col. Moberly was not

M. 1872

already aware how the
latter funds were sup-
-plied, he should have
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explanation of the
method.

QMN

Dr. E. J. Chinglet ✓
Cashier ✓
Fin. Dept. ✓

147-148

Dep. int. S-C 10/3/74

8014

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the District Engr
Chingleput

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 7

G. O. 5th March, No. 591

Recd. 11/7 4/4-8

The District Engr
of Chingleput in-
formed how funds
are provided for
the execution of Local
Funeral Works —