

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th November 1875.*

No. 68. Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department (Railway), dated Simla, 19th October 1875, No. 22 R —

Investigation into Accidents on Indian State Railways

OBSERVATIONS—There are now about 700 miles of State Railways open for traffic, and this length will be added to from year to year. It is necessary therefore to provide for the manner in which investigations into serious accidents should be conducted in the most complete and efficient way.

2 On the Guaranteed Railways when any serious accident, such as a collision with or without injury to life or limb, the breaching of an embankment, or the failure of a bridge occurs, the Consulting Engineer inspects, investigates, and reports on behalf of Government. When an accident occurs, attended with fatal consequences, the Magistrate of the District, or an officer deputed by him, conducts the inquiry.

3 The investigations are thus conducted by officers of Government and not by the servants of the Company directly responsible for the safe working of the Railway in which the accident may have occurred. The same principle should obviously also be extended to the investigation of accidents on State Railways.

4 The Governor-General in Council is accordingly pleased to decide, as a provisional measure, that accidents on State Railways when open for public traffic shall be subject to investigation by the Consulting Engineers attached to the Guaranteed Railways in India. The Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta, will be directed to inquire into any accidents that may occur on the Calcutta and South-Eastern Railway, the Nulhatee State Railway, and the Northern Bengal and Tirhoot State Railways. The Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways at Lahore will perform similar duties on the Punjab, Northern and Indus Valley State Railways, and the Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways, Lucknow, on the entire system of the Rajpootana State Railway from Delhi and Agra to Nussereabad. On the Holkar, Neemuch, Wardha Valley, and Nizam State Railways the investigation of accidents will, with the concurrence of the Government of Bombay, be undertaken by the Consulting Engineer for Guaranteed Railways at Bombay.

5 In regard to the Rangoon and Irrawaddy Valley State Railway, when opened for traffic, the Chief Commissioner should name some Engineer Officer of the Public Works Department under his orders unconnected with the Railway who may be best suited for the duty.

6 The Manager or Officer in charge of a State Railway should, in addition to the reports regarding accidents required to be made to the local civil authorities, promptly send information to the officers mentioned in this Resolution concerning accidents requiring investigation.

ORDER—Ordered, that this Resolution be communicated to the Government of Bombay in the Public Works Department (Railway) for information, and the issue of the necessary orders to the Consulting Engineer; to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for the purpose indicated in paragraph 5; to the Consulting Engineers to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways at Calcutta, Lahore, and Lucknow, for information and guidance; and to the Director of State Railways for information and

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The issue of the necessary orders to the Managers of State Railways opened for public traffic.

Ordered also, that this Resolution be communicated to the Governments and Administrations noted on the margin for information. Also to the Home Department for information and publication in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R A,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

No 69 ORDER THEREON, 4th November 1875, No 3,121.

RAILWAY, No 11-B.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting
Engineer for Railways for information

(True Extract)

Major-General, R E,
Secretary to Government

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
RAILWAY

To

CIRCULAR No 22 RAILWAY

Dated SIMLA, October 19, 1875

Received *Nov 3 1875*

Investigation into accidents on Indian State Railways.

With order

4th Nov 75
For info
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Communicated to the Consulting Engineer for
Railways for information.
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