

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

20th January 1881, No. 106.

Local Funds—Works.

Read the following paper:—

No. 71. *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th December 1880, No. 1904.*

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, dated 25th November 1880, No. 2210, communicating G.O. of the Public Works Department, dated 2nd November 1880, No. 2504 W., sanctioning estimate of Rs. 1,140 for repairs and protective works to the Kandadu Lattice Bridge.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 4th December 1880, No. 8156.

With reference to the correspondence marginally noted regarding the bad state of repair of the Kandadu Bridge, I have the honor to report that I hear from the Assistant Commissioner of Salt Revenue, South Arcot District, that in consequence of the recent floods the bridge has been pronounced unsafe and cart traffic over it stopped by order of the Local Fund Engineer, and, as I long ago predicted would be the case if nothing was done, the Mercanam Salt Factory has now been cut off from the interior, large tracts of which it supplies with salt. I therefore request that the Board will move Government to issue orders for the immediate repair of the bridge, and for its reconstruction at an early date. If the Local Fund Board cannot afford to carry out the latter work without assistance, I would suggest that they should borrow money to do so, recouping themselves by the levy of a toll on the traffic. Pending the temporary repair and reopening of the bridge for cart traffic, which I trust will be possible as soon as the floods have subsided, the demand for salt for the interior will be met from the Kandadu and Chunampet platforms of the factory, which are on the inland side of the river which is crossed by the bridge. But this cannot be the case for more than a few months. The repair of the bridge is therefore a matter of great urgency.

The Board observe that in their Order, dated 3rd February 1879, No. 268, Revenue Department, the Government decided that the cost of reconstructing the Kandadu Lattice Bridge, near Mercanam in South Arcot, should be debited to Local Funds and Salt Imperial in equal shares, the cost of repairs would be debitable in the same proportion. In their Order, dated 19th May 1879, No. 963, Financial Department, the Government lay down the following principle for the settlement of liability for charges connected with roads required for salt traffic, viz., that if the road is required solely in connection with the salt works, depôts, the charges should be debited to Imperial; but that if a road is required and maintained for the salt traffic

of the country then it should be considered in the same position as a road required by any other traffic. The bridge now in question is situated on one of the general communications of the country and has never been classed as a salt road (*vide* papers recorded in G.O., dated 3rd February 1879); the cost of reconstruction and repairs is therefore debitable to Local Funds. From Mr. Bliss' letter recorded above it appears that the bridge has now been closed to traffic, and that serious inconvenience will be experienced if the necessary repairs are not carried out at once. The question of the treatment of this bridge has now been under discussion for some time, and several estimates for its construction and repair appear to have been framed from time to time. The last order on the subject is G.O., dated 6th April 1880, No. 885 W., to which a reply was furnished in Board's Proceedings, dated 12th July 1880, showing that the extension of the canal does not affect the question of the necessity for maintaining the bridge. Apparently no temporary expedients have been adopted, and it may be necessary to call for a fresh estimate, but the Board would urge that something should be done without further delay. There are ample funds at the disposal of the Local Fund Boards, and they can recoup themselves by the levy of a toll. The current year's budget contained a provision of Rs. 15,000 for the reconstruction of the bridge, but the allotment has recently been transferred to other works; a large balance is, however, available.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary.

No. 72.

ORDER THEREON, 20th January 1881, No. 106.

The Government concur in the decision that the work is chargeable to Local Funds. The Board will instruct the President to cause an estimate for the reconstruction of the bridge to be prepared at once on the general scheme indicated in Proceedings, dated 3rd February 1879, No. 768, Revenue Department. The estimate should be submitted for sanction with the least possible delay.

(True Extract.)

J. Davidson
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Accountant-General.

Copy to the Public Works Department.

Ed. J. Wright.

No. 240 W 4/28th Jan 1881

Communicated to
the officer concerned.

The sanction accorded
in G.O. 2504 W d/ 2nd Nov 80
will now be registered
as Local No. 43 B ~~1880~~
of 1880-81.

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P. H. C. No 456

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

FINANCIAL.

P. W. P. January 1881

To THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

f. h. m.

Dated January, 20th.

Issued

Recd. 25th Jan.

Encl.

G.O., 20th January 1881, No. 106.

JANUARY.
Nos. 71-72.

Local Funds—Works.—The Board of Revenue requested to instruct the President, Local Fund Boards, South Arcot, to cause an estimate for the reconstruction of the bridge across the Kandadu backwater on the road from Tindivanam to Mercanam to be prepared at once on the general scheme indicated in G.O., No. 768 of 1879, Revenue Department. The decision that the work is chargeable to Local Funds concurred in.

With order

29.1.81