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Communicated to the
Supt of Works Godavari
and the Examiner M.
Accounts § 6.1

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S.M. Godavari ✓
Ex. M. C. ✓
C.E. for Supt ✓
13-1-81.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

4th January 1881, No. 12.

Local Funds—Engineering Establishment.

Read the following paper :—

No. 1. *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th November 1880, No. 1759.*

Read the following letter from J. GROSE, Esq., President of the Local Fund Board, Nellore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nellore, 4th November 1880, No. 90 :—

The Board are aware (*vide* my letter, 30th January 1880, No. 8,) that up to the end of last January I had been unable to secure the services of a District Engineer, whom I could take the responsibility of appointing to the position assigned to the District Engineer in the establishment sanctioned in G.O., 18th December 1879, No. 2435, that is to say the position of an organizer of the new system. Since then the disability has continued and I have myself been doing the duties of the proposed District Engineer with the help of Mr. Dwyer who, having been appointed Assistant Engineer, has acted as my Personal Assistant. The Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars have done the work of examination and check which is generally assigned to superior officers in the Engineering Department. I have found, however, that though good work has been effected, this system puts so severe a pressure on the time of myself and my Tahsildars that it must be altered forthwith. Nevertheless, the personal experience I have had has been sufficient to make me sure of my ground in submitting the following proposals for a revised Engineering Establishment, which were approved at a meeting of the Local Fund Board held on the 29th instant, and for which I have the honor to request sanction.

2. The Local Fund proposed originally to have a District Engineer on Rs. 500, rising to Rs. 600 with travelling allowance at Rs. 5 a-day, and one Assistant Engineer on Rs. 150, rising to Rs. 250 with travelling allowance at Rs. 3 a-day. They were of opinion that a highly-paid District Engineer was only necessary at first to get matters into working order, and that three Range Officers would be required eventually. The organization of the new system has now been effected, and experience has shown that whilst we do not want a District Engineer of the calibre proposed at first, we do want three officers of the grade of Sub-Engineer. Our Overseers are men of comparatively poor attainments who want close supervision, and cannot advantageously attempt any but the most ordinary work. Measurement and checking to be effectual must be done immediately the occasion arises, and the area concerned in the operations of the Local Fund Board is so great that this object cannot be attained unless there are three officers to do it. Moreover, it is essential to the due administration of the fund that a large number of new estimates should be prepared at once.

3. The Local Fund Board wish to have a District Engineer on Rs. 400 with travelling allowance at Rs. 4 a-day who will live at Nellore and have executive charge of the Nellore Taluk where there are 148 miles of road and several Local Fund buildings and exercise a general supervision over the Assistant Engineers. His Head Clerk and Draughtsman should have the same pay as at present, and as they should always remain at head-quarters, no travelling allowance need be provided for them. The second clerk should draw Rs. 25 instead of Rs. 30, and his travelling allowance should be 8 annas a-day. There should be five menials (one attender, two peons, and two lascars) on Rs. 6 with travelling allowance at 1 anna a-day. In the original

proposals it was not intended to give this class of servants any travelling allowance, but the grant of 1 anna a-day will prevent discontent and make the movements of the office easier. A provision of Rs. 300 a-year must be made for the rent of a building for the office. The District Engineer may be expected to spend half his time in camp. The expenditure on this account will be as shown below:—

	RS.	A.	P.
District Engineer	400	0	0
Travelling Allowance (fifteen days, at Rs. 4)	60	0	0
Head Clerk	50	0	0
Draughtsman	45	0	0
Second Clerk	25	0	0
Travelling Allowance (fifteen days, at 8 annas)	7	8	0
Five Menials	30	0	0
Travelling Allowance (fifteen days, at 1 anna)	4	11	0
Rent	25	0	0
	647	3	0
			12

Total .. 7,766 4 0

4. One Assistant Engineer will be stationed at Ongole and one at Gúdúr or Náyudupet. They should be paid Rs. 250 a-month and have Rs. 2 a-day as travelling allowance. Less will not attract the proper class of men. The office may remain as originally proposed, except that no travelling allowance need be provided for their head clerk and draughtsman, that their second clerk should get 4 annas a-day travelling allowance, and their lascars, &c., 1 anna a-day. Rs. 150 a-year must be provided for office rent. They may be expected to be two-thirds of their time in camp. The cost will be as shown below:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Assistant Engineer	250	0	0
Travelling Allowance (twenty days, at Rs. 2)	40	0	0
Head Clerk	30	0	0
Draughtsman	25	0	0
Second Clerk	15	0	0
Travelling Allowance (twenty days, at 4 annas)	5	0	0
Two Lascars and one Attender at Rs. 6	18	0	0
Travelling Allowance (twenty days, at 1 anna)	3	12	0
Rent	12	8	0
	399	4	0
			2
	798	8	0
			12

Total .. 9,582 0 0

5. It has not escaped attention that under this arrangement the present Assistant Engineer Mr. Dwyer who, under the sanctioned scale, would get (for next year)—

	RS.
Pay	175
Travelling Allowance (twenty days, at Rs. 3)	60
	235

will get—

	RS.
Pay	250
Travelling Allowance (twenty days, at Rs. 2)	40
	290

Total ..

or Rs. 55 a-month more than he can claim, but his ability has now been proved and the Local Fund Board think he is worth the money. It would be unjust to give him less than the other Assistant Engineer.

6. With regard to the Overseers, the Local Fund Board are satisfied with the present establishment so far as it goes, but they have found that efficiency requires that each Overseer should have a writer. They all had writers under the Department of Public Works system, and the Local Fund Board have been obliged to entertain five of these men on Rs. 15 who happened to be in the petty establishment. The Overseers have to do so much writing work (and being of the grade they are, a sufficient knowledge of their work cannot be obtained at head-quarters without it) that unless they have a clerk, they must slur over their primary duties of inspection. It will be sufficient to pay these clerks (with the exception of those already getting Rs. 15) Rs. 12, and give them a travelling allowance of 2 annas a-day. The lascars should have travelling allowance at 1 anna a-day. The cost will be as shown below, supposing, as experience warrants, that travelling allowance will be drawn for two-thirds of their time:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Eleven Overseers (as at present)	520	0	0
Travelling Allowance (twenty days, at 12, 10, and 8 annas)	130	0	0
Eleven Writers, at Rs. 12	132	0	0
Travelling Allowance (twenty days, at 2 annas)	27	8	0
Eleven Lascars, at Rs. 5	55	0	0
Travelling Allowance (twenty days, at 1 anna)	13	12	0
	878	4	0
			12

Add Rs. 180 for the five Writers now drawing Rs. 15 .. 180 0 0

Total .. 10,719 0 0

7. Besides these there are the Probationary Overseers who need not have writers, and who will probably not draw their travelling allowance for more than half their time. The travelling allowance, the Local Fund Board think, should be raised from 4 to 8 annas a-day.

	RS.	A.	P.
Three Probationary Overseers on Rs. 25	75	0	0
Travelling allowance (fifteen days, at 8 annas)	22	8	0
	97	8	0
			12
Total ..	1,170	0	0

8. The total annual cost of the proposed establishment (with travelling allowance) is therefore—

	RS.	A.	P.
District Engineer and Office	7,766	4	0
Two Assistant Engineers and Offices	9,582	0	0
Eleven Overseers with Offices	10,539	0	0
Three Probationary Overseers	1,170	0	0
	29,057	4	0
Add for Overseers' Writers (at present)	180	0	0
Total ..	29,237	4	0

9. This is greater than the cost sanctioned in G.O., dated 18th December 1879, No. 2435, but it provides for new and necessary items, and it is far less than the sum paid to the Department of Public Works which, on the average of the last eight years, amounted to Rs. 39,938. I do not think it can be safely reduced.

10. In the order I have quoted, Government postpone their decision about travelling allowances till they have received further information. The Local Fund

Board have come to the conclusion that travelling allowance should be paid under the rules applicable to the Revenue Department, and at the rates specified above.

Submitted for the sanction of Government.

2. The Board consider that the President has shown good reason for revising the Engineering Establishment, and the scheme contemplated seems, so far as an opinion can be formed at present, well adapted to meet the requirements of the district.

3. It is proposed to adopt the scale of travelling allowance which obtains in the Revenue Department; but the Board have on previous occasions expressed their preference for the Department of Public Works rules, and, unless the Nellore Local Fund Board have strong objections to following the Code of that department, the Board would wish to see it adopted in regard to these allowances.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 4th January 1881, No. 12.

Sanctioned, subject to further report as regards the scale of travelling allowance remarked on by the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

A. J. Davidson
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Public Works Department.