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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W DEPARTMENT

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| G.O. No. / B.P. No. | 1943 (W) | Press. / ~~Mis.~~ |
| Dated | 2-8-1882 | ~~197~~. |

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

Barry

1948
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

No. 13.

READ—the following letter from A. B. SAMPSON, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Civil Works—Telegraph), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 12th July 1882, Nos. 347-60 T:—

In continuation of Government of India, Public Works Department, Circular letter Nos. 172—83 T., dated 28th April 1882, I am directed to explain more fully the views of the Government of India with reference to the introduction of electric power arrangements for lighting and other purposes in India.

2. The power of the currents employed in electric lighting arrangements is so enormous that, irrespective of the liability of such currents to interfere with the working of any contiguous parallel telegraph or telephone lines, the result of any accident to overhead electric power wires would be *fatal* in any of the following cases:—

(*a*) Where the earth is *not* used as part of the circuit, if a careless, an ignorant, or a curious, person were to touch either two bare wires of the same circuit, or the two ends of a broken wire.

(*b*) Where the earth *is* used as part of the circuit, if a broken wire were to fall on to a telegraph or telephone wire, and any one in an office connected to it were to then touch a connection screw, or a bare connection wire.

Or if a wire belonging to an "arc" light were to break and the two ends fall sufficiently near to each other for a flame to be set up, and this flame were near any inflammable substance, such as a wooden gutter or verandah or a thatched roof, there would be danger, even if not certainty, of fire.

3. It is clear from the foregoing that there is considerable danger in the use of these currents, unless proper precautions as to construction and arrangement are in all cases insisted on; and while anxious, as far as possible, to avoid all unnecessary obstruction to the development of this and every other legitimate enterprise, the Government of India cannot overlook the duty of protecting public and private interests when they are, as in the present case, distinctly jeopardised.

4. There is at present no Act of the Indian Legislature which gives the Government any control over the transmission of electric power other than that contemplated in the Telegraph Act I of 1876, which is inadequate for the present purpose. A Bill to facilitate and regulate the supply of electricity for lighting and other purposes in Great Britain and Ireland is now before Parliament, and the Government of India before introducing legislation for this country desires to await the final passing of that Bill.

5. In the meantime it is essential that all possible precautions to guard the interests, both public and private, which are threatened should be taken; and as the nature of the risks involved are generally so little known, and the danger from the

neglect of the proper precautions is so great, the Government of India, though desiring to leave the fullest possible latitude to local Governments and local bodies in the management of business of this description, has no alternative but to repeat the wish already expressed, that as a tentative measure, and pending legislation on the subject, *overhead* wires (which it has been ascertained are not authorised in England) shall not be permitted to be erected, and that underground wires shall, if permitted to be laid down, be kept 30 feet away from telegraph and telephone lines.

6. I am further directed to forward for information extracts from the Bill (Clauses 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, and 18) now before Parliament, and also of the rules issued by the New York Board of Fire Underwriters for the protection of their interests, and to request that temporary regulations in general accord with these provisions may be issued for the guidance of municipal and local authorities in accepting tenders for public, or sanctioning works for private, purposes of this nature in the meantime.

7. I am to request special attention to the provisions of Clause 14 of the draft Bill which should be insisted on in all cases, substituting the "Director-General of Telegraphs" for the "Postmaster-General," and Government of India for the Board of Trade; and I am to add that, with these remarks, His Excellency the Governor-General in Council leaves the supervision of the introduction of electric power into the country in the hands of the Local Governments and Administrations, subject of course to the provisions of any law which may hereafter be passed for the regulation of these matters.

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ENCLOSURES.

*Rules issued by the New York Board of Fire Underwriters extracted from the* ELECTRICAL REVIEW *of 22nd April 1882.*

CAPACITY OF CONDUCTORS.

*For Arc Lights.*—The conductor must have a weight per running foot at least equal to that of the wire (or parallel group of wires) constituting the main circuit of the magnetic regulator of the electric lamps, or of the armature of the machine employed, whichever of these is the largest.

*For Incandescent Lights.*—Wherever a connection is made between a larger and a smaller conductor at the entrance to or within a building, some approved automatic device must be introduced in the circuit of the smaller conductor, whereby it shall be interrupted whenever the current passing through it is in excess of its safe carrying capacity.

The safe carrying capacity of a wire is that current which it will convey without becoming painfully warm when grasped in the closed hand.

INSULATION.

All wires, machines, and lamps to be so mounted and secured as to insure complete and continuous insulation, with the exception of those parts (such as portions of the lamps or machines, for example) where insulation is impossible, and in this case accidental contact with exterior objects must be prevented by appropriate screens or the like.

In no case must "ground circuits" be employed, or any portion of the system be allowed to come into conducting connection with the earth through water or gas pipes, or otherwise.

Exposed wires must be covered with at least two coatings, one of insulating material next the wire, of a thickness and material approved by the Board, and another outside of this, of a material calculated to protect the former from abrasion or other mechanical injury.

Where there is a possible exposure to water, the first or second coating must be impervious to that fluid.

Wherever electricity is carried into a building by conductors from an exterior source, a "cut out" must be provided at a point as near as possible to the entrance to such building.

The outgoing and returning wires for arc lights should enter and leave each building at points at least one foot from each other.

The wires passing through the exterior walls of a building should be firmly incased in substantial tubes of non-conducting material, not liable to absorb moisture, and placed in such a manner as to prevent rain water from entering the building along the wire.

In running along walls and the like wires should be rigidly attached to the same by non-conducting fastenings (the wires themselves being well insulated), and should not be hung from projecting insulators in loose loops.



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All wires should be placed at a distance of eight inches for arc lights and two and one-half inches for incandescent lights from each other, and wherever they approach any other wire or conducting body capable of furnishing another circuit or ground connection, they must be rigidly secured and separated from the same by some continuous solid non-conductor, such as dry wood, of at least one-half inch in thickness.

Wherever wires are carried through walls, floors, or partitions in buildings, they must be surrounded by a special insulating tube of substantial material.

All joints in wires must be made in such a manner as to secure a perfect and durable contact. Continuous wires (without joints) to be used as far as possible.

GLOBES.

Arc lights must be protected by glass globes, inclosed at the bottom to prevent the fall of ignited particles, and where inflammable materials are present below the lamps a wire netting must be added, to keep the parts of the globe in place, in case of its fracture during use.

All broken and cracked globes to be at once replaced by perfect globes.

In show-windows and other places where inflammable materials are near the lights, spark arresters shall be placed at the top of the globes.

AUTOMATIC SHUNT.

Wherever a current of such high electromotive force is employed that if concentrated on one lamp of the series it would produce an arc capable of destroying or fusing parts of such lamp, an automatic switch must be introduced in each lamp, by which it will be thrown out of circuit before the arc approaches any such dangerous extent.

Companies furnishing electricity from central stations must enter into an agreement with the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, binding themselves to test their lines for ground connections at least *once* every day (and preferably three times per day), and to report the result of such tests to the Board weekly.

Means by which those in charge of the dynamo-electric machines will be warned of any excessive flow of current, or means whereby the same will be automatically checked, must in all cases be provided.

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*Extract Clauses 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, and 18 of a Bill to facilitate and regulate the supply of Electricity for Lighting and other purposes in Great Britain and Ireland.*

Granting of licenses authorising the supply of electricity.

2. The Board of Trade may from time to time license any local authority as defined by this Act, or any company or person, to supply electricity for any public or private purposes within any area, subject to the following provisions:—

(1) The consent of every local authority having jurisdiction within the area or any part of the area within which a supply is licensed to be furnished shall be required to the license:

(2) A license shall be for any period not exceeding *five years*, but may, at the expiration of such license, be renewed at any time with such consent, as above mentioned, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Trade may determine:

(3) "Public purposes" shall mean lighting any street or any place belonging to or subject to the control of the local authority, or any church or registered place of public worship, or any vestry-hall or building belonging to or subject to the control of any public authority, or any public theatre, but shall not include any other purpose to which electricity may be applied:

(4) "Private purposes" shall include any purposes whatever to which electricity may for the time being be applicable, not being public purposes:

(5) Where a supply of electricity is provided in any part of an area for private purposes, then, except in so far as is otherwise provided by the terms of the license, every person within that part of the area shall, on application, be entitled to a supply on the same terms on which any other person in such part of the area is entitled under similar circumstances to a corresponding supply; and the local authority, company, or person supplying such electricity shall not be entitled to prescribe any special form of lamp or burner to be used by any person, or in any way to control or interfere with the manner in which electricity supplied for private purposes is used:

(6) The license may make such regulations as to the limits within which and the conditions under which a supply of electricity is to be compulsory or permissive, and for enforcing the performance by the licensees of their duties in relation to such supply, and generally may contain such regulations and conditions, as the Board of Trade may think expedient.

Where in any area within the jurisdiction of a local authority any road is not repairable by such local authority, such road shall not be broken up without the consent of the authority or person by whom such road is repairable, unless in pursuance of special powers in that behalf inserted in the license, or with the written consent of the Board of Trade; and the Board of Trade shall not in any case insert such special powers or give such consent until notice has been given to such authority or person and an opportunity has been given to such authority or person to state any objections they may have thereto.

Making of rules as to application, &c., under Act and of bye-laws for protection of public.

4. The Board of Trade may from time to time make, and when made may rescind, alter or repeal rules in relation to the applications for licenses or provisional orders, and to the payments to be made in respect thereof, and to any other matters arising under this Act.

Where a supply of electricity is authorised to be furnished under this Act in any area, the Board of Trade may from time to time themselves make, rescind, alter, or repeal, or authorise any local authority from time to time to make, rescind, alter, or repeal, bye-laws for the protection of the public in relation to such supply, and to the insulation of the electricity or otherwise; and there may be annexed to any breach of such bye-laws such penalties, to be recovered in a summary manner, as the Board of Trade may think necessary.

Power to undertakers to alter position of pipes and wires.

9. The undertakers may alter the position of any such pipes or wires being under any street or place authorised to be broken up by them as may interfere with the exercise of their powers under this Act, on previously making or securing such compensation to the owners of such pipes or wires, and on complying with such conditions as to the mode of making such alterations as may before the commencement of such alterations be agreed upon between the undertakers and owners, or in case of difference as may be determined in manner prescribed by the license or provisional order authorising the undertakers to supply electricity, or where no such manner is prescribed as may be determined by arbitration.

Compensation for damage.

10. In the exercise of the powers given them under this Act or any license or provisional order granted thereunder, the undertakers shall cause as little detriment and inconvenience and do as little damage as may be, and shall make full compensation to all bodies and persons interested for all damage sustained by them by reason or in consequence of the exercise of such powers, the amount and application of such compensation in case of difference to be determined by arbitration.

Charges for electricity.

11. The undertakers shall not, in making any agreements for a supply of electricity, show any undue preference to any person, but, save as aforesaid, they may make such charges for the supply of electricity, in this Act called "electricity rent," as may be agreed upon, not exceeding the limits of price imposed by or in pursuance of the license or provisional order authorising them to supply electricity.

Injuring works with intent to cut off supply of electricity.

12. Any person who unlawfully and maliciously cuts or injures any electric line or work with intent to cut off any supply of electricity shall be guilty of felony, and be liable to be kept in penal servitude for any term not exceeding *five years*; or to be imprisoned with or without hard labor for any term not exceeding *two years*; but nothing in this section shall exempt a person from any proceeding for any offence which is punishable under any other provision of this Act, or under any other Act, or at common law, so that no person be punished twice for the same offence.

Stealing electricity.

13. Any person who fraudulently abstracts, causes to be wasted, consumes, or uses any electricity shall be guilty of simple larceny and punishable accordingly.

Provision for protection of the Postmaster-General.

14. The undertakers shall not lay down any main or wire or do any other work for the supply of electricity whereby any telegraphic line of the Postmaster-General is or may be injuriously affected; and before any such main or wire is laid down or work is done within ten yards of any part of a telegraphic line of the Postmaster-General, the undertakers or their agents, not more than twenty-eight nor less than fourteen days before commencing such work, shall give written notice to the Postmaster-General specifying the course and nature of the work, including the gauge of any wire, and the undertakers and their agents shall conform with such reasonable requirements (either general or special) as may from time to time be made by the Postmaster-General for the purpose of preventing any telegraphic line of the Postmaster-General from being injuriously affected by the said work.

Any difference which arises between the Postmaster-General and the undertakers or their agents with respect to any requirements so made shall be determined by the Board of Trade.



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In the event of any contravention of or wilful non-compliance with this section by the undertakers or their agents the undertakers shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *ten pounds* for every day during which such contravention or non-compliance continues, or if the telegraphic communication is wilfully interrupted, not exceeding *fifty pounds* for every day on which such interruption continues:

Provided that nothing in this section shall subject the undertakers or their agents to a fine under this section, if they satisfy the court having cognizance of the case that the immediate execution of the work was required to avoid an accident, or otherwise was a work of emergency, and that they forthwith served on [the Postmaster or Sub-postmaster of the postal telegraph office nearest to the place where the work was done a notice of the execution thereof, stating the reason for executing the same without previous notice.

For the purposes of this section a telegraphic line of the Postmaster-General shall be deemed to be injuriously affected by a work if telegraphic communication by means of such line is, whether through induction or otherwise, in any manner affected by such work or by any use made of such work.

For the purposes of this section, and subject as therein provided, Sections 2, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Telegraph Act, 1878, shall be deemed to be incorporated with this Act, as if the undertakers were undertakers within the meaning of those sections, without prejudice nevertheless to any operation which the other sections of the said Act would have had if this section had not been enacted.

41 & 42 Vic., c. 76.

Interpretation.

17. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

The expression "electricity" means electricity, electric current, or any like agency:

The expression "electric line" means a wire or wires, conductor, or other means used for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electricity with any casing, coating, covering, tube, pipe, or insulator enclosing, surrounding, or supporting the same, or any part thereof, or any apparatus connected therewith for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electrity or electric currents:

The expression "works" means and includes electric lines; also any buildings, machinery, engines, works, matters, or things of whatever description required to supply electricity and to carry into effect the object of the undertakers under this Act:

The expression "company" means any body of persons corporate or unincorporate:

8 & 9 Vic., c. 18.

The expression "Lands Clauses Acts" means the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts, 1845, 1860, and 1869.

23 & 24 Vic., c. 106. 32 & 33 Vic., c. 18.

Provision as to general Acts.

18. Nothing in this Act shall exempt the undertakers or their undertaking from the provisions of any general Act relating to the supply of electricity which may be passed in this or any future sessions of Parliament.

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No. 14.

ORDER—dated 2nd August 1882, No. 1943 W., Public Works.

Communicated to the Financial Department in continuation of G.O., No. 1268 W., dated 19th May 1882.

(True Extract.)

Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Financial Department.
" Superintending Engineers.
" Superintendents of Telegraphs.
" Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

# Govt. of {1882} Madras.

## PUBLIC WORKS.

*Dated August, 2nd.*

*Read.* *Encl.*

**G.O.,2nd Aug. 1882, No. 1943 W.**

**AUGUST.**
**Nos. 13-14.**

**Lighting.**

*Views of the Government of India with reference to the introduction of electric power arrangements for* — and other purposes in India, communicated to the Financial De-

R.K. 4

Please note on the original & spare copies of G.O. 1943 W of 2/8/82 that the paper has been communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

E.A.S
9/5/83.

Arrangem-
Please note
this - J.P. 14/5/83-

Nos. 347-60T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS.

Telegraph.

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Simla, July 12, 1882.

To

THE GOVERNMENTS OF MADRAS, BOMBAY, BENGAL, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH, AND THE PUNJAB.
THE CHIEF COMMISSIONERS, CENTRAL PROVINCES, BRITISH BURMA, ASSAM, AND COORG.
THE RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.
THE AGENTS, GOVERNOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INDIA, RAJPUTANA AND BILUCHISTAN.

SIR,

In continuation of Government of India, Public Works Department, Circular letter Nos. 172—83T., dated 28th April 1882, I am directed to explain more fully the views of the Government of India with reference to the introduction of electric power arrangements for lighting and other purposes in India.

2. The power of the currents employed in electric lighting arrangements is so enormous that, irrespective of the liability of such currents to interfere with the working of any contiguous parallel telegraph or telephone lines, the result of any accident to overhead electric power wires would be *fatal* in any of the following cases:—

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I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

A B Lawson ~~Major, R.E.~~,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 347 T.

To, The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras,
Public Works Dept.

## Enclosure No. 1 to Public Works Department Letter Nos. 347-60T. of 1882.

*Rules issued by the New York Board of Fire Underwriters extracted from the* ELECTRICAL REVIEW *of 22nd April* 1882.

### CAPACITY OF CONDUCTORS.

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### GLOBES.

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Enclosure No. 2 to Public Works Department letter No. 347-60T. of 1882.

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*Extract clauses* 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, *and* 18 *of a Bill to facilitate and regulate the supply of Electricity for Lighting and other purposes in Great Britain and Ireland.*

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Compensation for damage.

11. The undertakers shall not, in making any agreements for a supply of electricity, show any undue preference to any person, but, save as aforesaid, they may make such charges for the supply of electricity, in this Act called "electricity rent," as may be agreed upon, not exceeding the limits of price imposed by or in pursuance of the license or provisional order authorising them to supply electricity.

Charges for electricity.

12. Any person who unlawfully and maliciously cuts or injures any electric line or work with intent to cut off any supply of electricity shall be guilty of felony, and be liable to be kept in penal servitude for any term not exceeding *five years*; or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding *two years*; but nothing in this section shall exempt a person from any proceeding for any offence which is punishable under any other provision of this Act, or under any other Act, or at common law, so that no person be punished twice for the same offence.

Injuring works with intent to cut off supply of electricity.

13. Any person who fraudulently causes to be wasted, consumes, or uses any electricity shall be guilty of simple larceny and punishable accordingly.

Stealing electricity.

14. The undertakers shall not lay down any main or wire or do any other work for the supply of electricity whereby any telegraph of the Postmaster-General is or may be injuriously affected; and before any such main or wire is laid down or work is done within ten yards of any part of a telegraphic line of the Postmaster-General, the undertakers or their agents, not more than twenty-eight nor less than fourteen days before commencing such work, shall give written notice to the Postmaster-General specifying the course and nature of the work, including the gauge of any wire, and the undertakers and their agents shall conform with such reasonable requirements (either general or special) as may from time to time be made by the Postmaster-General for the purpose of preventing any telegraphic line of the Postmaster-General from being injuriously affected by the said work.

Provision for protection of the Postmaster-General.

Any difference which arises between the Postmaster-General and the undertakers or their agents with respect to any requirements so made shall be determined by the Board of Trade.

In the event of any contravention of or wilful non-compliance with this section by the undertakers or their agents the undertakers shall be liable to a fine not exceeding *ten pounds* for every day during which such contravention or non-compliance continues, or if the telegraphic communication is wilfully interrupted, not exceeding *fifty pounds* for every day on which such interruption continues:

Provided that nothing in this section shall subject the undertakers or their agents to a fine under this section, if they satisfy the court having cognizance of the case that the immediate execution of the work was required to avoid an accident, or otherwise was a work of emergency, and that they forthwith served on the Postmaster or Sub-postmaster of the postal telegraph office nearest to the place where the work was done a notice of the execution thereof, stating the reason for executing the same without previous notice.

For the purposes of this section a telegraphic line of the Postmaster-General shall be deemed to be injuriously affected by a work if telegraphic communication by means of such line is, whether through induction or otherwise, in any manner affected by such work or by any use made of such work.

For the purposes of this section, and subject as therein provided, sections two, eight, nine, ten, eleven and twelve of the Telegraph Act, 1878, shall be deemed to be incorporated with this Act, as if the undertakers were undertakers within the meaning of those sections, without prejudice nevertheless to any operation which the other sections of the said Act would have had if this section had not been enacted.

41 & 42 Vic., c. 76.

17. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation.

The expression "electricity" means electricity, electric current, or any like agency:

The expression "electric line" means a wire or wires, conductor, or other means used for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electricity with any casing, coating, covering, tube, pipe, or insulator enclosing, surrounding, or supporting the same, or any part thereof, or any apparatus connected therewith for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electrity or electric currents:



The expression "works" means and includes electric lines; also any buildings, machinery, engines, works, matters, or things of whatever description required to supply electricity and to carry into effect the object of the undertakers under this Act:

The expression "company" means any body of persons corporate or unincorporate:

8 & 9 Vic., c. 18.

The expression "Lands Clauses Acts" means the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts, 1845, 1860, and 1869.

23 & 24 Vict. c. 106. 32 & 33 Vict. c. 18.

18. Nothing in this Act shall exempt the undertakers or their undertaking from the provisions of any general Act relating to the supply of electricity which may be passed in this or any future sessions of Parliament.

Provision as to general Acts.

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