

Dec. 1899

No 124 w a / 12th January

PPH
10/Jan

The Examiner's endorsement
will be communicated
to the Suptg Eng^r V Circle
with reference to his
letter No 3403 d / 21st.

From,
The Examiner P.W. Accounts
Madras.
To,
The Chief Engineer,
P.W. Department.

Nov. 1887.

2. The suggestion in
para 4 will be commu-
nicated to all Suptg
Engineers for consideration,
and adoption at their
discretion.



No 124 w a / 12th January

No. 102 H

23.12.87

Dated 20 December 1887.

Recd. 21

5/1/88

S.E. V Circle. ✓
Other Suptg Engineers ✓
Ex. P.W. Accts. ✓

How 6.1.88

10/1/88

Enclo. I.

Travelling allowance bill,
of the South Arcot Division for
September. Forwarding correspond-
ance on the subject of delay in
dealing with-----with remarks.

With order

Enclosed 1 of letters 102 W

No 577.

From

South Street Division
Executive Engineer's Office
Camp Cuddalore 10th November 1887

J. W. Martin Esquire
Executive Engineer
South Street Division

To

The Superintending Engineer
5th Circle

Sir

I have the honor to bring
to your notice, that the travel-
ling allowance bill for this Di-
vision for September was pre-
sented in the Examiner's Of-
fice fifteen days according
to the dates stamped on the
bill. I have brought to notice
already, more than once, in my
replies to disallowance lists the
great delay that takes place
in the Examiner's Office, but his
replies are, I consider, unsatis-
factory, and he has given no
promise that there will be any
improvement

improvement in the future. It
is therefore useless to point out
in the disallowance list the
delay. I therefore request
you will, either ask the Ex-
aminers for an explanation
or bring the subject to the notice
of the Chief Engineer. I need hardly
point out that to keep men out
of their travelling allowance a
day longer than is necessary is
a hardship, particularly on the
members of the Department on
small pay. For instance, if
a lascar makes two or three
journeys a month by rail which
is not uncommon, he has to
incur, for him, heavy expense,
and it is certainly not reasonable
to delay recouping the money
to him unless the Examiners
can show very good reasons.

for

for the delay

I have the honor to
Signd J. W. Martin
Executive Engineer

N^o 3403.

Forwarded to the
Chief Engineer P. W. De-
partment, as requested by
the Executive Engineer
through the Examiners
of P. W. Accounts.

Henry R. Blunt
Col. R.E.
Superintending Engineer
S. H. Park

Heppart
21 November
1887

From
The Supt Engineer
5 mile
To The Chief Engineer
P.W. Department
Thro: the Examiner
P.W. Accounts.

Dated 21st } November 1887
Recd —

No. 3403.
Travelling Allowance
Bill for Sept 1887.
Forwards letter No.
577 dated 10th November
from the Ex. Engr. South Arcot
1887, bringing to notice
the great delay caused
in the Examiner's office
in auditing the

EXAMINER
No. 42388
23 NOV 1887
ENCLOSURES
P.W. ACCOUNTS

N.B.—In any future communication on this subject, the number and date of this letter should be quoted.

[C. No. 2.]

No. 102 H.
From Major C. H. P. Christie R.E.
The EXAMINER,
PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS,
MADRAS,
To The Chief Engineer,
Public Works Department.
Madras, 20th December 1887.

Here enter endorsement by the Superintending Engineer 5th. Circle No. 3403 dated 21st November 1887 on letter from Mr. J. W. Martin, Executive Engineer South Arcot Division (original).

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer P.W. Department as requested.

2. There has been no avoidable delay in dealing with the travelling allowance bills of the South Arcot Division, and Mr. Martin has been informed accordingly. Mr. Martin's complaints, of which there have been two, one in my predecessors' time and one in mine, were made in replies to disallowance lists, in the wording of which, and of rejoinders etc. connected with them, brevity is necessarily studied, and all redundancy avoided; moreover the disallowance list form is intended for eliciting information as to irregular, or apparently irregular, claims in bills, and is not the proper vehicle for complaints of this sort. Also Mr. Martin on each occasion has adopted a tone which implied a right on his part to call the Examiner to account, and to insist on an explanation which must be entirely satisfactory to himself, or, failing that, a promise

12.

of amendment in future — a claim which neither my predecessor nor myself has been inclined to admit. The replies given to Mr. Martin's remarks have therefore probably been rather more curt than they would have been if he had addressed the Examiner in a letter, and had adopted a slightly different tone.

3. It is evidently not worth while to keep up such a record of the detailed progress of the audit of each travelling allowance bill, or salary bill, and of the thousand and one accidents which may delay the disposal of any one bill, often in the interests of the officers whose claims are under disposal, on the chance of being asked a month or afterwards why some individual bill was (apparently) delayed a day or two more or less in audit; but if Government see any reason to suppose that there is any undue delay in the disposal of bills generally, I will endeavour to keep such a record for a time, and I shall hope to satisfy Government that there is no such delay; but it would I think be time and labour wasted.

4. I fully agree with Mr. Martin as to the hardship to menial servants of being kept waiting even a few days for out of pocket expenses forced upon them in connection with journeys made on duty. In Superintending Engineers' offices such expenses as railways fares, are generally recouped at once, if not advanced beforehand, out of the office imprest, which is again recouped on audit of the office travelling allowance bill; and I think Government might allow a similar procedure in Executive Engineers' offices, a small imprest being

being allowed for the purpose to the head clerk of the office.

R. E. Martin
Major R. E.
Examiner P. W. Accounts Madras.

Recd. One

0.5/18/11