

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

29th November 1881, No. 2976 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 131. Proceedings of the Government of India, Public Works Department (Civil Works—Telegraph), dated Simla, 14th November 1881, Nos. 410-442 T.

Tariff on Inland Messages.

Read the following papers :—

Resolution by the Government of India, Nos. 169-90 T., dated 31st May 1881.
Letter from the Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 442 T., „ 6th June „
„ „ 447 T., „ 10th „ „
„ Government of Bombay, No. 10 T.-727, dated 6th June 1881. „
„ Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, dated 28th June 1881.
„ Madras, „ 22nd July „
„ Government of India, to the Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 284 T.,
dated 12th August 1881.
„ Government of India, No. 295 T., dated 17th August 1881.
„ Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 495 T., dated 19th August 1881.
„ „ „ 497 T., „ 19th „ „
„ „ „ 514 T., „ 9th Sept. „
„ Government of India, to the Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 344 T.,
dated 28th September 1881.
„ Director-General of Telegraphs, No. 548 T., dated 26th October 1881.

OBSERVATIONS.—In the Resolution of the 31st May 1881 His Excellency the Governor-General in Council authorised the introduction of a “word” rate of two annas a word for each word in excess of the minimum charge of one rupee for six words; and indicated the future policy of the Government of India with regard to the development of the telegraph service briefly as follows :—

The Government of India is willing and anxious to forward any scheme for developing and facilitating communication by telegraph so far as this can be done without risk to the interests of the general tax-paying community, but in the interests of that community it is essential that the telegraph service should be self-supporting.

The Government of India, as opportunity arises, will consider measures for the partial amalgamation of the telegraph and postal services so as to secure economy of working.

By the same Resolution the power to authorise the Telegraph Department to erect lines and open offices was with certain necessary restrictions extended to local Governments and Administrations; and the Director-General of Telegraphs was desired to suggest further measures which might encourage the more extended use of the telegraph service by the public, without endangering the financial position of the department.

In accordance with these orders the Director-General of Telegraphs has submitted, for the approval of Government, a scheme for the revision of the tariff, which, while affording room for a very considerable further reduction in rates, will admit of a large expansion of the traffic without necessitating additional expenditure on increasing the number of wires.

The main feature of this scheme consists in the introduction of arrangements which will permit of the disposal of message traffic in order of urgency instead of, as at present, in order of presentation of messages.

Under the present system messages are, with very few exceptions, transmitted in order of receipt without any reference to their comparative urgency; in the case of commercial and “State” telegrams almost the whole of the messages sent are tendered for transmission during the business hours of the day; the result being a great pressure of work for a few hours, while for the rest of the day and night the wires

are lying comparatively idle; and messages of great urgency are not infrequently delayed awaiting their turn for transmission while the wires are occupied with messages of less importance in which a delay of some hours would be of no consequence whatever.

On the other hand, messages are delivered on arrival at any hour of the day or night irrespective of their urgency; they are frequently delayed in transit owing to the cause referred to above; and the addressees are needlessly disturbed at night by the receipt of telegrams on which no action can be taken until the following day.

It is obvious that the telegraph officials cannot be the judges of the comparative urgency of messages tendered for transmission; the selection must be made by the senders themselves; and in order to admit of this being done the more readily, the Director-General of Telegraphs proposes to introduce, in addition to the ordinary class of message, two other classes, "deferred" and "urgent."

Messages marked by senders as "deferred" will be received at any time during the working hours of the Telegraph Office, but will be transmitted at the convenience of the Telegraph Department on the understanding that they shall be delivered at their destination early on the following morning. Such messages would usually be transmitted during the night, when the wires are comparatively free, and would be delivered at their destination through the Post Office with the first postal delivery, except at stations where such a procedure would entail too much delay.

Messages marked by the senders as "urgent" will have priority over all ordinary messages, and will be delivered immediately on arrival by special messenger.

Messages marked by the senders as "ordinary" will be dealt with in order of receipt as under the present system, but will yield priority to all "urgent" messages.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council believes that the introduction of the "deferred" message system as sketched out above will prove a very great convenience to the public in improving the service for transmission of really urgent messages, and it will enable a large reduction in average cost of telegraphing to be made, owing to the facilities it would give for utilising the wires for a greater proportion of the twenty-four hours than is possible under the present system.

For "deferred" messages, which may be expected to comprise the great bulk of communications relating to such subjects as mercantile transactions effected, evening résumés of operations between corresponding firms, orders issued too late for execution the same day, modifications of orders already sent by post, and to most of the telegrams on domestic concerns, a very considerable reduction of cost will be possible; for ordinary messages the number of words to be allowed can be slightly increased with safety; but for "urgent" messages it will be necessary to somewhat increase the cost, as the privilege of priority and delivery by special messenger which is accorded to such messages will, while adding considerably to their value to the sender, entail additional cost on the State. It is also necessary to make the rates for "urgent" messages sufficiently high to restrict such messages to really important communications, as otherwise the value of the priority obtained would be largely reduced.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is accordingly pleased to direct that the telegraph rules be revised on this basis, and has approved of the following tariff:—

The address to be transmitted free in all cases as at present.

Local messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission in ordinary course within a radius of six miles from a central telegraph office.

Four annas for each group of eight words or less.

Deferred messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission at the convenience of the Telegraph Department, but to be delivered at destination early on the following morning.

Minimum charge eight annas for eight words or less, with one anna for each additional word in excess of eight.

Ordinary messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission and delivery in ordinary course.

Minimum charge one rupee for eight words or less, with two annas for each additional word in excess of eight.

Urgent messages, that is, messages tendered for immediate transmission, and delivery with priority over all "ordinary" messages.

Minimum charge two rupees for eight words or less, with four annas for each additional word in excess of eight.

Press messages to be subject to the same rates as above, but four times the number of words are allowed for each rate.

The revised rules and tariff published with this Resolution will come into force on the 1st January 1882.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is further pleased to direct that, with a view to reduce expenditure and to prevent the State business from unduly interfering with private message traffic, all *State* telegraph messages shall be sent as "deferred" unless specially marked as "urgent" by the sender, and that no *State* message shall be despatched as an "ordinary" message.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copy of this Resolution and enclosures be communicated

To the Department of Finance and Commerce.
To the Foreign, Home, Military, and Legislative Departments.
Department of Revenue and Agriculture.
The Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Punjab, in the Public Works Department.
The Chief Commissioners, Central Provinces, British Burma, Assam, and Coorg.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Resident at Mysore (through Foreign Department).
The Agents to the Governor-General for Central India, Rajputana, and Beluchistan.
The Accountant-General, Public Works Department.
The Inspector-General of Military Works.
The Director-General of Railways.
The Consulting Engineers to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow.

to the departments of the Government of India and to the local Governments and Administrations noted in the margin for information and guidance, with reference to the concluding paragraph.

Also, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director-General of Telegraphs for information and guidance.

Also, that the Resolution and enclosures be published in the *Gazette of India*, and that copies be communicated to the Chambers of Commerce in Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Rangoon, and Karachi.

(Signed) G. F. L. MARSHALL, Major, R.E.,
for Offg. Secy. to Govt. of India, P.W.D.

No. 132. ORDER THEREON, 29th November 1881, No. 2976 W.

COMMUNICATED to officers and departments of the Madras Government for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. H. SANKEY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Consulting Engineer for Railways.
To Superintending Engineers.
To the Consulting Architect to Government.
" General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Examiner of Railway Accounts.
" Public, &c., Departments.
" Revenue Department.
" Military "

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE CHIEF ENGINEER
FOR IRRIGATION,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 29th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 29th November 1881, No. 2976 W.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 131-132.

Tariff on Inland Messages.—Resolution of the Government of India regarding —, communicated to the officers of the Public Works Department.

No. 165 T.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

CIVIL WORKS.
Telegraph.

RESOLUTION.

Introduction of the "Ordinary" Class for State messages.

Simla, the 14th July, 1888.

READ again—

Resolution in the Public Works Department, Nos. 410-4-T., dated the 14th November 1881.

Read also—

Letter from the Comptroller and Auditor General, No. 133, dated the 19th April 1887.
Circular in the Department of Finance and Commerce, No. 4278, dated the 24th August 1887, to the several Local Governments and Administrations, and to all Accountants General and Comptrollers.

Replies to the above—

From the Accountant General, Bengal, No. $\frac{T.M.}{585}$, dated the 7th September 1887.
From the Accountant General, Punjab, No. $\frac{R.S.}{376}$, dated the 7th September 1887.
From the Chief Commissioner, Ajmere-Merwara, No. 1110, dated the 9th September 1887.
From the Comptroller, Hyderabad, No. 4058, dated the 7th September 1887.
From the Accountant General, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. $\frac{T.A.D.}{10163}$, dated the 12th September 1887.
From the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. $\frac{1208}{X11-440-A.}$, dated the 14th September 1887.
From the Accountant General, Bombay, No. $\frac{G.}{16162}$, dated the 16th September 1887.
From the Chief Commissioner, Coorg, No. $\frac{1866}{887}$, dated the 15th September 1887.
From the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. $\frac{4769}{265}$, dated the 17th September 1887.
From the Chief Commissioner, Assam, No. 5570, dated the 17th September 1887, and enclosure.
From the Comptroller, Burma, No. $\frac{G.L.}{4}$, dated the 15th September 1887.
From the Comptroller, Assam, No. $\frac{8}{4732}$, dated the 16th September 1887.
From the Government of Madras, No. 1002, dated the 12th September 1887.
From the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 372-G., dated the 20th September 1887.
From the Comptroller, Central Provinces, No. $\frac{G.}{2995}$, dated the 22nd September 1887.
From the Accountant General, Madras, No. 2611, dated the 29th September 1887.
From the Chief Commissioner, Burma, No. 632-212-A., dated the 24th September 1887.
From the Government of the Punjab, No. 1826, dated the 25th October 1887.
From the Comptroller General, No. 1572, dated the 9th November 1887.
From the Government of Bengal, No. 57, dated the 12th January 1888.
From the Comptroller of India Treasuries, No. $\frac{2512}{T.A.}$, dated the 6th February 1888.
From the Government of Bombay, No. $\frac{17}{439}$, dated the 3rd March 1888.

OBSERVATIONS.—By the orders contained in the Resolution of November 1881, cited in the preamble, the Government of India introduced the present system of classifying telegrams, by which, instead of being despatched

simply in order of presentation at the Telegraph offices, they receive preference for despatch according as they are paid for as "urgent," "ordinary," and "deferred." At the same time, it was directed that all State messages should be sent as "deferred," unless specially marked as "urgent" by the sender, and that no State message should be despatched as an "ordinary" message. In July 1887, however, from statistics showing the number of State messages classed as "deferred" and "urgent" during the five years ending 1886-87, it appeared that the percentage classed as "urgent" was very much greater in the case of State than of private messages. As this pointed to the withdrawal of the prohibition to send State messages as "ordinary," the opinions of the Local Governments and Administrations and of the Account Officers of Government were requested on the subject. They were asked to report whether they considered that the proposed change would lead to economy, and whether they could suggest any effective check on the abuse of the discretion now allowed to public officers of classifying State messages as "urgent."

2. The opinions called for have now been obtained and considered; and the attention of the Government of India has been particularly drawn to the fact that in many cases State messages are sent as "urgent" merely to save the delay of a day which is presumed to result from sending them "deferred." Nothing is gained by sending such messages "urgent" which would not be equally secured if they were permitted to be sent "ordinary;" it has been consequently determined that the order which forbids the use of "ordinary" State messages shall be repealed.

RESOLUTION.—In future State messages may be classed as "urgent," "ordinary," or "deferred" at the discretion of the sender.

2. Without laying down any precise rules for the classification of telegrams, the following general principles are prescribed for the guidance of officers, who should also bear in mind the necessity for keeping the expenditure as low as possible:—

(1) When it is not necessary that a reply (by post or wire) should be despatched within office hours of the same day, the message should be sent "deferred."

(2) When it is considered essential that a reply should be sent the same day, the message should be sent "ordinary."

(3) "Urgent" messages should be used only—

(a) in cases of real emergency;

(b) in cases where the despatching officer knows that the line is for any reason blocked, and considers his message sufficiently important to take precedence of ordinary traffic.

(4) Telegrams should, except when extreme precision is important, be expressed in as few words as are consistent with clearly conveying the intended meaning; and mere auxiliary or connective words, which can obviously be filled in by the receiver, should be omitted.

3. As regards the check over expenditure, the Government of India, after consideration of the various opinions which have been expressed, does not consider it necessary to prescribe any further check than that of the ordinary controlling authority, who may at any time call upon a subordinate to justify any apparently large expenditure upon telegrams. The Government of India, however, invites the attention of Local Governments to the desirability of including telegraph charges within the contract system of contingencies as the best means of preventing extravagance and abuse of the discretion regarding classification conferred by these orders.

4. The orders contained in this Resolution will take effect from the 1st August 1888.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be communicated to the

The Department of Finance and Commerce.
The Foreign, Home, Military and Legislative Departments.
The Department of Revenue and Agriculture.
The Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Punjab.
The Chief Commissioners of the Central Provinces, Burma, Assam, and Coorg.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Agents to the Governor General for Central India, Rajputana, and Baluchistan.
The Accountant General, Public Works Department.
The Inspector General of Military Works.
The Director General of Railways.
The Consulting Engineers to the Government of India, for Railways, Calcutta, Central Division, and Lucknow.
The Director General of Telegraphs.
The Superintendent of Works, Simla Imperial Circle.

Commerce in Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Rangoon and Karachi.

Departments of the Government of India and to the Local Governments and Administrations, noted in the margin, for information and guidance.

Also that the Resolution be published in the *Gazette of India*, and that copies be communicated to the Chambers of

R. C. B. PEMBERTON, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to the Government of India.

No 2358 Ind/2nd August 1888

Communicated to
the Departments of the Secretariat
and to officers of the P.W. Dept.
for information & guidance
with reference to G.O. No 2976
d/29 November 1881

(M) J.O.H

No 2358 Ind/2nd August 1888

The Public Works Department
Revenue - Dept
Military Dept
Ch & for Irrigation
Consulting Engineers for Sigs
Suptg Engineers
Ex P.W.D
C.A. to Govt
Exr. by accounts

16TH AUGUST 1888, No. 817, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

G.O., dated 2nd August 1888, No. 2358-W., Public Works.

Read—the following Resolution of the Government of India, Public Works Department (Civil Works, Telegraph), dated Simla, 14th July 1888, No. 165-T.

Introduction of the "Ordinary" Class for State messages.

Read again—

Resolution in the Public Works Department, Nos. 410-42-T., dated the 14th November 1881.

Read also—

Letter from the Comptroller and Auditor-General, No. 133, dated the 19th April 1887.
Circular in the Department of Finance and Commerce, No. 4278, dated the 24th August 1887, to the several Local Governments and Administrations, and to all Accountants-General and Comptrollers.

Replies to the above.

Observations—

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2. The opinions called for have now been obtained and considered; and the attention of the Government of India has been particularly drawn to the fact that in many cases State messages are sent as "urgent" merely to save the delay of a day which is presumed to result from sending them "deferred." Nothing is gained by sending such messages "urgent" which would not be equally secured if they were permitted to be sent "ordinary;" it has been consequently determined that the order which forbids the use of "ordinary" State messages shall be repealed.

Resolution—

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+ S.O. 882976/4
29-11-81-

2. Without laying down any precise rules for the classification of telegrams, the following general principles are prescribed for the guidance of officers, who should also bear in mind the necessity for keeping the expenditure as low as possible:—

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4. The orders contained in this resolution will take effect from the 1st August 1888.

(Signed) R. C. B. PEMBERTON, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Order—dated 2nd August 1888, No. 2358-W., Public Works.

Communicated to the departments of the Secretariat and to officers of the Public Works department for information and guidance, with reference to G.O., No. 2976-W., dated 29th November 1881.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Public, &c., Departments.

ORDER—dated 16th August 1888, No. 817, Public.

Communicated to all heads of departments under the Chief Secretary for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

W. C. B. Pemberton
R. Davidson
Under Secy. P.W.D.
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To all heads of departments.

Exd. W. H. French.

B. No 23554. 2. 8. 88
G.O. 29764. 29. 11. 87

2/23/88

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P.W.C. No 876

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No 2793 Wd/s Septe
1888

Recorded with
Reference to G.O. No.
Reference to G.O. No.

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G.O., 16th August 1888, No. 817.

No. 2793 Wd/s Septe 1888

Telegraph.—Communicating to all heads of departments under the Chief Secretary, for information and guidance, Government of India resolution introducing the "ordinary" class for State messages.

479 10.9.88 12/9/88