

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From E. W. KELLNER, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 12th September 1888, No. 2748.

I have the honor to solicit the orders of Government on the following point.

2. In this office letter, No. 1059, dated 23rd April 1885, printed in G.O., No. 91, Financial, dated 27th January 1886, it was reported that travelling allowance is admitted from and to the chief public office at each station, and that such office has been assumed to be the Collector's office where there is one, and the office of the chief civil authority where there is no Collector.

3. In making the above statement, this office was under the impression that the distances given in the Route Book of the Madras Presidency were calculated in the manner described, but I have recently had occasion to address the Quartermaster-General respecting certain corrections required in the Route Book, as the distances given in it differ from those stated by Executive Engineers, whose certificates have been accepted under Madras G.O., No. 1718, Public, dated 25th November 1880. The Quartermaster-General, in his letter, No. 318-C, dated 14th August 1888, now informs me "that the Route Book shows distances from the most central point in one village or town to the most central point in another, except where points are specified, as in Route No. 269, where the distance to the first stage is measured from the Fort." It would also appear from this, that before the total distances given in the Route Book between different places can be corrected, it is essential that the intermediate stage distances should likewise be revised, for otherwise these when added together will not correspond with the total.

4. In these circumstances, I beg to request that I may be favored with the orders of Government. It is to be noted that Rule 3, section 7, Civil Travelling Allowance Code, Provisional Issue, does not fix the chief public office as the place from which journeys are to begin or end in all cases, but allows the local Government to determine these points. If, under this rule, the Government should decide on maintaining the central points taken in the Route Book, this office will pass travelling allowance in accordance with the distances given in that book, except in cases where they are shown to be not quite correct. On the other hand, it is open to the Government to declare that the distances shall be computed as between the chief public offices at the stations in respect of which the travelling allowance is drawn. In this case, the amounts will be passed on certificates from the drawing officers whenever the distances they give differ from that entered in the Route Book. I do not think that this arrangement will be convenient to the officers themselves, or to this department, and I venture to suggest that, on the whole, it will be best to keep to the Route Book as proposed above.

From J. W. MARTIN, Esq., Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Division, to the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, dated Coimbatore, 7th September 1888, No. 557.

I have the honor to bring to your notice that the Acting Head Assistant Collector, Coimbatore district, asked me in his letter, No. 377-C.R. of 1888, dated 18th July 1888, to let him know the actual distance in miles and furlongs from Coimbatore to Annur, Annur to Satyamangalam, Satyamangalam to Hasanur, and Hasanur to Chamrajnagur. The distance from Coimbatore to Chamrajnagur is 81 miles, 2 furlongs, according to the Route Book; and the two last-named villages are in the Kollegal taluk.

2. In reply to the letter from the Head Assistant Collector, I informed him that the Government Order he referred to was not communicated to this office, and I explained that it was not possible to ascertain from maps the distances, on account of some of the places being in Kollégal taluk, an unsurveyed tract of country, but I gave him the distances between the villages as given in the Route Book. He has now furnished a copy of G.O., No. 1718, of 25th November 1880, and states that the Route Book is not correct, and requests me to furnish him with the correct distances between the villages named. He does not, however, explain how he has ascertained that the distances given in the Route Book are incorrect.

3. I bring this matter to your notice to suggest that, as this department is now not in charge of the roads, the Local Fund department should be authorized to grant a certificate in the present case and all similar cases in future. As the Head Assistant Collector disputes the correctness of the distances given in the Route Book, there is no alternative but to chain the distance from Coimbatore to Chamraju nagur, if I must give a certificate, which, as you know, will occupy a considerable amount of time to do.

4. Under any circumstances, I think it is highly desirable to modify the Government Order under consideration, for at present any officer who may consider the distances given in the Route Book incorrect can practically request the Executive Engineer of the Division to measure a road for any distance within the limits of the division, which, if often repeated, would, of course, involve a considerable amount of additional work.

ENCLOSURE.

PROCEEDINGS of the Government of Madras, Public Department, dated 25th November 1880, No. 1718.

Read the following paper:—

No. 65. From W. DONALD, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 6th November 1880, No. 3945.

I have the honor to bring to the notice of His Grace the Governor in Council that Mr. H. Fortey, Inspector of Schools, Second Division, claimed mileage for forty-seven miles from Kurnool to Nandyál, and as the distance between the two stations is forty-five miles according to the new Route Book, I disallowed mileage for the excess distance. The Treasury Deputy Collector, Kurnool, informs me that the distance by high road from Kurnool to Mulasagaram is forty-five miles, and that a branch road leads thence to the town of Nandyál, which is two miles from the high road. Under these circumstances, I request that His Grace in Council will be pleased to issue instructions to the Military Department to correct the Route Book, and to instruct me how to deal with Mr. Fortey's claim.

No. 66. ORDER thereon, dated 25th November 1880, No. 1718.

The Accountant-General will withdraw the retrenchment. To prevent further references of the kind, the Government direct that where the distances given in the Route Book are incorrect, a certificate signed by the Executive Engineer of the Division shall be considered as authoritatively deciding the matter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 384-E.W.

Submitted to the Chief Engineer for favor of orders.

2. As the Public Works establishment is limited and deprived of the charge of the roads, the duty of furnishing the certificate of correct distance may be delegated to Local Fund Engineers.

COIMBATORE, (Signed) R. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
12th September 1888. Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.

No. 677-D.

Referred to the Public Department, with suggestion that it may be ruled, in modification of G.O., No. 1718, dated 25th November 1880, that certificates of distances should be signed by Local Fund Engineers.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
17th September 1888. Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

ORDER—dated 25th September 1888, No. 939, Public.

The proposal to adhere to the Route Book as the standard guide for calculating travelling allowances is approved.

2. This book is revised from time to time, and there will be no appeal from it. Any inaccuracy which may be discovered in it should be brought to the notice of the Quartermaster-General, and supported by such evidence as may be forthcoming. The G.O., of 25th November 1880, No. 1718, is cancelled.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
„ all Heads of Departments under the Chief Secretary.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Raitt.

20-5-C.