1

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 157 W

DATED 20 January 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Indents for Stores: Correspondence on the subject of delay on the part of the India Office in complying with — Recorded with remarks; and the General Superintendent's proposal to submit, for review and necessary action a monthly statement, showing the dates of receipt of all articles compared with the dates of the indents and the nature of the stores, approved

B
20-1-98
W.R.C.

[P. W. 25. 1,000—30-11-97]

Indexed. 21/1

BACK PAPERS.

~~all~~ articles compared with the dates of the indents; and the value of the Stores – these statements will be reviewed with reference to the actual dates of the despatch of the indents from the Secretariat, and the description of the articles demanded, and instances of undue delay in supply will be brought to the notice of the Dir. Genl. of Stores as they occur –

Cn

15.1.98

No due date.

Mem. S.S. V submitted. Rur 15.1.98.

Return S.H.C after issue B Comp. M. R. C.

S.S. V wire

(He thinks the monthly in the list of reasons

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

43/500

C. No. 12741/97

IS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR. ✓

~~TH. HON'BLE SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E.~~

~~HE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.~~

SUBJECT. Delay in complying with indents on England

FOR ORDERS.

+ Enclosure to flag E.

The paper flagged (G) is the reply of the General Supt. P.W. Stores to the memorandum of the Director General at the India Office (enclosure to flag F) criticising a statement+ showing typical instances of delay in supply of stores from England –

The General Supt. defends the statement from the point of view of his office, but the fact remains that it might have been prepared in a more intelligible form. The stores might have been specified in the statement, and the current values, the selection of which was intrusted to Colonel Smart, should not have been included - The second column of the statement gives the No: & date of the indents, but an additional column should have been added showing the actual date of the despatch of the indents from Madras - the date of the indent is the date of its despatch from the P.W. Stores, but there is often a considerable interval between that time and the day it leaves the Secretariat in the Home packet - Correspondence with the Examiner sometimes intervenes in regard to provision of funds; explanation is perhaps called for from the indenting officer, or other circumstances may cause delay in transmission - In this respect the Dir. Genl. of Stores was justified

Very well.
A.S.H.

in saying that
ment was drawn up
in a way to create a
false impression - The
insertion of the extra
column should have
been attended to in
the Secretariat.

This particular
Correspondence might
perhaps be allowed
to drop - the General
Supt. promises to subm
a monthly statement
showing the dates of
receipt of stores com-
pared with dates of
indents, and the
nature of the articles
Instances of undue del
in the supply of stores
having regard to the
actual dates of despa
of the indents, and
nature of the articles, c
be brought [illegible]
li

notice of the
Director General as they
occur.

W 10.1.98

Ch

A.H.
12.1.98

14-1-98.

Public Works (1897) Department

CURRENT No. 12741

Order

From Supdg: Engineer
V Circle

No. 524 W

Dated 23rd December 1897
Received 30-12-97
Enclosures 2/1 Report by Dr. Genl. of Stores
Spare copies —

SUBJECT.

Home Indents.

Submits explanation from the General Supdt. P.W. Stores with respect to the report by the Director-General of Stores on —.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	5342C	P.W.	9-12-97 ✓
	5343C	"	9-12-97 ✓
	5045C	"	23-12-96 ✓
	22 2661W	"	18-9-96 ✓
	2661W	"	18-9-96 ✓
	2786W	"	7-10-97 ✓
	2785W	"	7-10-97 ✓
	2723W	"	1-10-97 ✓
	3781C	"	7-9-97 ✓
	724W	"	12-3-97 ✓
	437W	"	13-2-97 ✓
	436W	"	13-2-97 ✓
	912-3W	"	13-3-96 ✓
	2319W	"	19-9-95 ✓

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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blic Works (1896) Department.

P W Encl

CURRENT No. ~~11522~~ 12741/5

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
No. 984 W.
24 DEC. 1896
V. CIRCLE, P. W. D., MADRAS.

No. 5045C d/ 23rd December 1896.

~~Order~~ Endt.

Referred to the Supdg. Engr. V Circle for a full explanation from the General Supdt. P. W. Stores with respect to the Report by the Director General of Stores.

2. The statement mentioned is that submitted with the General Supdt's letter No. 615 dated 15th July 1896, printed with G.O. No. 2661W dated 18th Sept. 1896.

G. McL. Campbell Colonel R.E.
Secy. to Govt.

24.12.96

From The Secretary of State

No. X

Dated 26. 11. 96

Received 18. 12. 96

Enclosures .

Spare copies .

SUBJECT.

Stores: Informing that instructions have been issued for the early compliance of indents f required by P. W. D.

P. W. 29.
2,000–16-11-96.

ACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PA ERS

No.	D

7

India Office,
London, 26th November 1896.

Public Works (Stores),
No. 1.

To His Excellency The Honourable The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

Sir,

I should like to see the papers with a Note from the ~~Chief~~ Sec.
A.S.H. 15.12.96

With reference to your Public Works Letter, No. 22/2661 W., complaining of delay in complying with Indents for stores for your Public Works Department, I have directed that every effort be made to secure the earliest possible despatch of all stores demanded.

2. I enclose, for your information, a copy of a Minute by the Director-General of Stores in regard to the typical instances of delay quoted by your General Superintendent of Public Works Stores.

N.B.
A.A.
16.12.96

3. Annual indents, for replenishment of stock, including some hundreds of items, are not treated as urgent unless so designated, and it is, as a rule, impossible, if due regard be had to economy in purchase, to secure that the despatch of the bulk of the stores shall have been completed in less than about five months after the date of the receipt of the demand.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,

George Hamilton

PAPERS. FURTHER PAPERS

No.

ENCLOSURE.

Report by the Director-General of Stores.

1 The complaint of delay in the supply of stores made by the Government of Madras appears very serious, but the statement on which it is based has been very loosely drawn up, and has evidently been framed on very insufficient information. One indent is quoted twice over, a second three times, and another (Item No. 10) bears neither number nor date, so that it is impossible to identify it.

2 Item No. 5, quoted as Indent No. 18 of 8th March 1893, on which the stores were delivered in Madras on the 12th August 1894, was an indent for oil engines of a special make, actually dated 8th March 1894, and received on the 27th March 1894. The engines were built and shipped in 3½ months from the date of the receipt of the demand, a period which cannot be considered excessive.

3 Item No. 2 was a demand for a special hydraulic motor and pump. A specification was drawn up, tenders were invited, and the order was placed within three weeks of the receipt of the demand. The contractors, the Glenfield Company, one of the leading firms of the kingdom, promised to supply by the 14th March 1894, but did not actually deliver till rather more than a month later, and shipment was made within a month afterwards. A delay to this extent or even longer can rarely be avoided in the case of special manufactures. Accidents happen, strikes occur, and pressure of work combines to make any reliance on promises as to dates of delivery futile. The higher the class of firm employed the more likely are those contingencies to arise. Penalties for delay, even if they can be inflicted, have no deterrent effect. Firms would pay and grumble, and eventually refuse our work, thus closing the best markets for our requirements.

4 Item 9 was not an indent in the proper sense of the word. The Government of Madras, in their Public Works Letter, No. 10/3236 W., dated 17th December 1894, asked that Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Smart, R.E., then on furlough, might be placed on duty, *inter alia*, to select two current meters of a type suitable for use on the Godavari Delta Works. It was laid down in this letter that Lieutenant-Colonel Smart's duty in regard to the current meters was to be confined to their selection, while their purchase and despatch was to be left to the Stores Department. No communication whatever was received from Lieutenant-Colonel Smart by the Director-General of Stores till the 22nd September, when he stated that he had ordered the meters, and had directed the manufacturers to send them to the India Office packed for transmission to India. The Department was in no sense responsible for any delay that occurred; it neither ordered nor inspected the stores, but merely acted as a forwarding agent.

5 Items 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 11 relate to three indents only, and are probably intended to refer to individual items in those indents. The way in which the delay is shown is, however, likely to create a false impression, in making it appear that more than a year was occupied in meeting six several demands. These three indents were annual ones, indicating no urgency, and were dealt with in the ordinary course in their turn, with other demands then in course of execution. That the Government of Madras did not consider them urgent is clear from the fact that neither one of them was received in this country within two months of its date. They contained respectively 706, 623, and 379 items. In the case of the first two indents the bulk of the supplies was

shipped within five months of the date of the receipt of the demand. Of the third indent, about two-thirds was despatched within a like period, while the remaining supplies were delayed partly by the necessity of reference to India, partly by the loss of a vessel bringing tools from America, but mainly by default of contractors. There were on each indent a few instances of unreasonable delay which may very fairly be complained of by an indenting officer, but these were due almost entirely to the failures of contractors, a contingency which can neither be foreseen nor avoided.

Contracts are made by the Store Department as speedily as circumstances will permit after the receipt of an indent, and every contract is carefully watched at each step of its execution.

It is, of course, impossible to avoid long delays at times, especially when as at present trade is very good; but no effort is spared by the Store Department to purchase, examine, and ship goods as speedily as is consistent with economy and efficiency.

No. 8.

Public Works (Stores),
26th November 1896.

The
Letter to Fort St. George,
No. 1, and enclosure.

CHIEF SECRETARY
16-DEC 1896
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

P.W. Enc 2
12741/97

SAW

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opy of letter from F. Mo
General Superintendent, Publ
Works Stores &ca to the Supg. Eng
5th Circle, Madras, 15th Decr.

No. 2575—

1 Enclosure.

With reference to your No. 305 P.W.S dated 25th December 189 I regret the long delay in answe -ing this reference. The paper wa sent to the Storekeeper to check th dates etc but owing to the very heavy famine work in the store this had to give way to more urgen work. The checking meant a considerable search through n numerous files of packing accounts and was a matter o time and trouble which could not be attended to till lately.

It is not clear what the full explanation is which is required by the Chief Engineer

unl

[illegible]

statement in question is incor-
t and wishes explanation for
being so. The statement however
correct with the exception of the
nission in item No. 10 (an error in
pying) referred to in the Director
eneral of Stores report—

The Director General of Stores
ays the statement has been very
oosely drawn up and is evidently
ramed on very insufficient infor-
mation. It is not clear what this
neans. Excepting the single error
above referred to it correctly gives
the information required, i.e. instances
f delay of more than a year in com-
plying with the indents. In conse-
quence of that error in copying it
annot be said to have been abso-
-lutely correctly drawn up but
it is not fair to say that it was
very loosely drawn up.

The statement was framed
sufficient information for the
purpose.

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he informa
was the dates on which the ind
were submitted and the date
which the articles were lande
this information was available
the statement was prepared—

It may be that the Direc
General of Stores thinks that th
reasons for the delays ought t
have been ascertained and furni
with the statement. Of Course, the
information was not available
this Office nor was it called for.

With regard to the fact
that indents are quoted more
than once in the statement I
must point out that this was
necessary as every indent is no
entirely complied with in a single
consignment and the items of
the statement refer to consign-
-ments as will be seen from the
names of vessels being given.
Stores sent in compliance with
one indent usually come in
separate steamers on various da

y must be expec
not intended that the delays
ld appear in the Statement
ater than they really were-
numbers of the various
dents are expressly given in
statement and I do not
ce how it is possible to sup-
pose that items belonging
the same indent should ~~belong~~ belong
separate indents seeing that
they bear the same indent
number-

In para 5 of the report
the Director General of Stores
says that items 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11 of
the statement relate to three
indents only and are probably
intended to refer to individual
items in these indents- That
they relate to three indents only is of
course

be clear from the
They are not intended to r
to individual items of the
but to such portions of the
indented for as came by th
steamers named and which
arrived more than a year
after the despatch of the inde

I trust that I have m
it clear that the statement
in question which was submi
from this Office was neither in
-correct nor misleading as
the Director General of Store
appears to think-

I am scarcely in a positi
to offer an opinion on the reaso
for the instances of delay note
Where things indented for ha
to be specially manufacture
I have no doubt that there wa
good reason for the delay in
sending