

Public Works (189) Department.

G.O., No. 1803 W

✓ DATED 16 July '98

[Despatch Abstract.]
Proposals to protect cash during transit
from bank to office : Finding that it is
impracticable to give effect to the Government's
— by the provision of Miss Scott.

C. K. J. S.
Dr

Indexed. 21/1

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

It is understood that the usual practice is for the Cashier to go to the bank in company with a person and to return in a tubke with the money. This ~~Order~~ involves but little risk ~~practice seen as safe enough~~ and may be continued.

From
E. A. Denny Esquire
Examiner P.W. Accounts

Madras V Cong

with regard to a Police Constable
No. 782 A/B

The Enantiomer's suggestions
are considered impracticable
without an amount of expense
and inconvenience which
^{it is not desirable to incur}
~~would be of no benefit~~
~~to be derived.~~

Dated 24th June 1898

Received }
Registered } 27-6-98

Enclosures

** Spare copies*

The Enigma 2 87/106 12.7

SUBJECT.

Two
Cash in transit — Submitting
proposals in regard to arrangements
for the custody of —
between Bank & Office.

o. L5 204 1A

imil

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
1160W	11-5-98
1159W	11-5-98

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.
-----	-------

N.B.—In any future communication on this subject, the number and date of this letter should be quoted, and the communication should be addressed to the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Madras, and not to any officer by name.

[E. No. 94.]
1,000—7-2-98.

FROM E. A. DENNYS, Esq.,
EXAMINER OF P. W. ACCOUNTS,
MADRAS AND COORG,

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.

No. 782 A/B Madras, 24th June 1898.

SIR,

The orders issued in G.O.No. 1159 W dated 11th May 1898 in connection with the recent forgery that transpired in the Godavery Eastern Division have caused me to look specially into the arrangements in force in my office concerning the custody and handling of cash and cheques and all valuable documents. Every possible additional safeguard against risk to Government has been taken, and I think I may say that the system and arrangements now introduced are more free from objection than they have ever been before.

2. There is, however, one matter regarding which I am far from satisfied, and which appears to call for special consideration and orders— I refer to the way in which Cash is conveyed from the Bank or Treasury to my office for payment of Salaries of myself and Staff on the first working day of each month.

3. The practice, according to a time-honored custom, is for a petty clerk in company with a peon to be deputed to the Bank with the cheque for office salaries, and for them to bring back cash, i.e. Notes, Rupees & small coin—The cash thus conveyed amounts to some thousands of Rupees, and, needless to say, its transit the Bank to my office is attended with no inconsiderable risk. I understand that a similar arrangement obtains in most, if

if not all, of the other public offices, and, in my experience, it does also obtain in other parts of India- But I venture to think that, while it speaks well for the petty ^{Clerks} and peons concerned that attempts have not (if indeed they have not) been made towards making away with the cash, on the other hand it is not fair to expose them to the actual risks of robbery on the way.

4. However, this may be, it must I think be admitted that Government money in transit under existing arrangements affords no small temptation to the unscrupulous, and should be guarded from the risks to which it is thus periodically exposed.

5. The difficulty might be got over by a standing arrangement with the Police Department to provide on each pay day a Police guard of adequate strength for the express purpose of escorting, in company with the clerks and peons already referred to, the whole of the cash from the Treasury to the Government offices concerned. One treasure guard would of course suffice for each block of buildings, but whether the Police could cope with a demand to this extent would remain to be seen.

6. In any case, I have thought it only right to ask that this matter as regards my own office be put before Government for any orders that may be thought necessary.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

Examiner P.W. Accounts, Madras & Coorg.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 5351 of 1898.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

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

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

SUBJECT:

Proposals to protect cash during transit from Bank to office.

FOR ORDERS.

G.O. No. 1159 W d/11th May 98.

Flag B

The circumstances connected-- with the recent forgery case in the Godavari Eastern Division have caused the Examiner to reconsider the existing arrangements in his office in regard to the handling of cash, cheques and all valuable documents, and he now invites attention to the procedure for conveying money from the Bank to his office, on the pay day of each month.

2. The practice in almost all the public offices at Madras is for the cash-keeper to go to the Bank in company with a peon and to return with the money in a jutka.

3. The Examiner points out that apart from the temptation that is-- offered to the persons in custody of the cash, there is the risk of robbery on the way, and suggests that an arrangement might be made to provide a Police escort for the cash going to each

each block of buildings.

4. There seem to be practical difficulties in the way of carrying out the suggestions of the Examiner:-

(1) All the offices in each block would probably have to arrange to send their cashiers to the Bank at the same time so as to form a united party admitting of Police escort. This would cause considerable inconvenience, for all the offices do not get their cheques at the same hour or even ~~on~~ the same day.

(2) Even if a Police guard were -- available, it is not likely that more than one would be given for each block of buildings. As regards Chepar there are the following blocks of public offices to be served.

1. Office of the Registrar of the Madras University-Senate House.

2. Board of Revenue.

3. College of Engineering.

4. P. W. D. Offices.

5. Paymaster of Carnatic Stipends.

6. Presidency College,

and

and unless all the Cashiers get --- their cheques cashed on the same -- day, the guard would ^{probably} have to be repeated for several successive days.

(3) The Cashiers would all have to wait at the bank until every individual had been served, so as to -- return together in the company of the escort. This would bring them back so late in the afternoon that the money could not be disbursed before the close of the day. The money would then have to be kept in office cash chests till the -- next day with the much greater -- risk of robbery during the night. On the rare occasions when robbery of public money has occurred in the town of Madras, it has, it is believed, taken place at night by breaking into public offices and rifling the cash chests.

5. These objections may perhaps be overcome by allotting one Police guard to each cashier, but it is -- doubtful whether the Police force would be equal to this demand.

6. On the whole, the practical difficulties in the way of the Examiner's proposals seem to outweigh the expected benefits. It must also be remembered that the ~~men~~ ^{persons} selected for the post of cashier in public offices are generally men of --- respectable

18 to 20 in the aggregate

respectable family, and a fair --
amount of pensionable service. It
is not worth the while of such a
man, apart from high principle, to
abscond with Government money, and
thus blight his whole life. It is believed
that a case of this kind is unknown.
7. As regards the risk of --

robbery between Bank & office, there
is little or none. The cashier is
in a jukka with an office peon, and
is practically safe from violence
in open day, and along the main
roads of the city. What little risk
there may be must, it is thought,
continue to be incurred,

7/4

8.94

11.7.98

W. 9.7.98

W.

Cu 5351

Caw

As this paper
relates to a question of
office management,
I forward it to you
to note on, before
submitting it to
higher authority.

From time immemorial, the cashier
in each office has
gone to the Bank
to cash the pay cheque
of his office, & I
don't think there
has been a case
within memory of
a cashier holding the
the money in his
possession.

W. 9.7.98

There is no doubt
some risk in of
attacks by the way,
but such risk must
be very small in a
large town like London,
where the roads are
always more or less
crowded during the
day. The Cashier goes to
gettings from the Bank
in a jettie, accompanied
by a person - Our Cashier
says that he has never
felt any risk of attacks
while returning with money.

The suggestion as to
a Police Guard is perhaps
a good one, but will
Govt. give a Policeman
for each office? The
Examiner suggests that
a Police Guard should
be furnished for each
block of buildings.

all the officers in each
block would have
to arrange to send to
their Cashiers to the Bank
at the same time - This
would cause a lot of
inconvenience, for all
the officers do not get
their cheques on the
1st, or at the same
hour on the 1st - It
is not likely that
more than one Police
Guard would be given
for all the offices at
Chapoll - This would
include the Board
of Revenue & other
of Engineering - Some
of these officers rarely
get their cheques before
the 2nd or 3rd of the month
all the Cashiers would
have to wait at the
Bank until all

the charges are cashed, &
they would all have
to return together as
a welling house to look
with the escort - they
would probably not
get back to their homes
before dark.

If one policeman
could be furnished
to come back to office
in the jetties with
cash courier, it would
be all right, but will
Govt. give so many police-
men?

You will no
doubt state your
own views on the
question.

Cs

28/7/98

Submitted.

As regards a Cashier
absconding with money. I
have not felt any anxiety

C. No 5351

in the P.W. Secretariat. For the
post of Cashier I am anxious
to select a man of respectable
connections and a fair
amount of pensionable service.
It is not worth the while of
such a man, apart from
high principle, to run away
with Govt. money, and thus
blight his whole life.

As regards the risk of
robbery between the Bank and
office, there is little or none.
The Cashier is in a jettie with
an officer person, and the two
characters of Madras are not
so lawless & daring as to make
an attack in open day along the
main roads of the City, in two
men in a vehicle.

It is important to get
the money to office as early as
possible in the day, so that it
may be disbursed before night.
The only robberies that I have
ever heard of have been of cash
chests during the night, after
the clerks have left office.

A police escort is I think
quite unnecessary, by day light,
in the town of Madras.

L.S.

2 July 98 W

The arrangements
are the same in all Depts.
of the Secretariat. In Madras
and the men-walk

L.S. 2 July 98

Ref. according to C. detailing the bracketed
difficulties with the way of police escort?
I say that I consider that the very small
risk attendant in the present method of
darning cash must compare with the increased
risk

4-7-98

C. W. 5351

to

Please see the last
para of C's letter. He
asks that the matter be
put before God for orders
doubtless with the intention
of being relieved from
personal responsibility.
Should any loss occur.
Is it still desired, please,
that the matter should
be referred back to him?

N.S.

24 July 98

no. write a note
in order of Govt

L. H. S.

4.7.98