

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 594 20

DATED 7 March 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

St. John's Church at Pondicherry, Pondicherry.
Ecclesiastical. Dept stating that it is not
considered advisable to bring the church at
Pondicherry on to the list of churches to be repaired
by the P.W.D. and that as a special case the P.W.D.
will be authorized to carry out the necessary
repairs to the church. Comd to S.E. V. with
remarks for guidance.

Can
Saw
7/29/98

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C.S. 17-2-98

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

Memorandum of the Public Works Department, dated 6th November 1897, No. 4579-C.

The undersigned has the honour to inquire whether St. John's Church at Pondicherry belongs to the British Government, and if so, who is responsible for its repairs. It is not mentioned among the various churches enumerated in Proceedings, No. 2746 W., dated 17th October 1891, but it is included in the list given at pages 945-46 of the Asylum Press Almanac, and at page 943 of the same publication it is stated that the Chaplain at Cuddalore is to visit Pondicherry once a month.

2. The information now asked for is required in connection with questions as to whether the Public Works Department is in any way responsible for the maintenance of the church and as to the grant of travelling allowance to officers proceeding to Pondicherry to inspect it.

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Ag. Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Ecclesiastical Department.

Memorandum No. 2632.

Referred to the Venerable the Archdeacon for report. The Archdeacon is requested to state by whom and at whose expense the repairs have been carried on in the past.

2nd December 1897.

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Chief Secretary.

From the Venerable W. W. ELWES, M.A., Archdeacon of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 25th January 1898, No. 4211.

With reference to memorandum No. 2632, dated 2nd December 1897, on Cur. No. 301, Ecclesiastical Department, I have the honour to state that I believe the matter stands thus with reference to the church at Pondicherry:—

- It is not Government property.
- It is vested in the Bishop and Archdeacon presumably because it is in French territory.
- The expenses connected with its upkeep including repairs have been met by Consular Agents and from small offertories.
- The church at present is said to require repairs amounting to between thirteen and fourteen hundred rupees.

- The Bishop and Archdeacon have no funds to meet this and, unless Government are able to meet the cost, the repairs cannot be undertaken.
- The number of members of the Church of England at Pondicherry is said to be about 60.
- The station is visited as a Government outstation by the Chaplain of Cuddalore.

2. I return Cur. No. 301, Public Works Department.

ORDER—No. 14, Ecclesiastical, dated 31st January 1898.

Under the circumstances reported by the Venerable the Archdeacon, the Government does not consider it advisable to bring the church at Pondicherry on to the list of churches to be repaired by the Public Works Department.

2. As a special case, however, the Public Works Department will be authorised to carry out the necessary repairs from savings in the budget allotment under the head "Petty Construction and Repairs."

(True Extract.)

A. L. Hannay
7/2/98
for Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
" Venerable the Archdeacon.
" Accountant-General.

Ed. C. M. Thambuswamy.