

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 678 W

DATED 14th March 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Matters of Political or Administrative importance: Res: Public Dept Comts. ^{for guidance of} with remarks Govt of India letter requesting that local officers may be instructed to despatch direct to the Govt of India duplicates of the telegrams in which they report - to the local Government recorded.

W/p

4.3.98

[illegible]

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

Communicating, with remarks, to the departments of the Secretariat, for information and guidance, letter from the Government of India requesting that local officers may be instructed to despatch direct to the Government of India duplicates of the telegrams in which they report — to the Local Government.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., No. 1464, Public, dated 10th November 1897.

Read—the following letter from J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Public), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 24th August 1897, No. 1732:—

Occasionally information regarding matters of political or administrative importance, or events which have excited public interest, has not been promptly communicated by the Local Government to the Government of India, who have gained the first news regarding them from the newspapers. It is essential that news regarding such matters should reach the Government of India at the earliest moment, since it is undesirable that the Governor-General in Council should remain in ignorance of important events until they become generally known, while it may at any time become necessary for His Excellency in Council to take action in view of the possibility of their affecting a neighbouring Province or Native State. It appears to the Government of India that the information which is required by them would be readily secured if Local Governments and Administrations were to issue instructions to local officers to despatch direct to the Government of India duplicates of the telegrams in which they report matters of importance to the Local Government or Administration. The matters upon which the Government of India would desire to receive such information are riots which involve a serious breach of the public peace, all collisions between Europeans of all classes and natives, outrages which have a political aspect, calamities such as floods or earthquakes which cause serious damage to life or property, and all other events which have a political or administrative importance.

2. I am to explain that in making this request the Governor-General in Council has no intention of interfering with the disposal by Local Governments and Administrations of business with which it is their function to deal, and that all that he requires in the first instance is a statement of the facts of all events which are politically and administratively important for his information and that of the Secretary of State. His Excellency in Council would, however, desire that in all cases of the kind which are of sufficient importance to call for orders from the Local Government or Administration, an official report intimating its decision and communicating the orders passed by it should be sent as soon as the Local Government or Administration has been able to review the facts of the case and arrive at its conclusion regarding them.

Order—No. 1464, Public, dated 10th November 1897.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

A. T. ARUNDEL,
Chief Secretary.

Letter—No. 1465, Public, dated 10th November 1897.

READ—also the following paper:—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Public), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 20th December 1897, No. 2702.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1465, dated the 10th November 1897, representing that His Excellency the Governor in Council doubts the expediency of the request contained in Home Department letter, No. 1732, dated the 24th August 1897, that local officers should despatch to the Government of India duplicates of telegrams in which they report matters of political or administrative importance to the Local Government.

2. In reply, I am to say that, as they have found that unnecessary delay has taken place in reporting the actual facts of important occurrences, the Government of India desire that the experiment suggested by them may be tried; if, however, in practice it proves unsuccessful, it can be reconsidered. But the Governor-General in Council does not anticipate that the inconvenience apprehended will follow the adoption of the measures suggested, since only the more important matters of those which have already to be reported to the Local Government will be reported to the Government of India; and all that the Governor-General in Council desires is that the Government of India should receive the earliest intimation of actual facts of important occurrences by the receipt of a duplicate copy of a telegram informing the Local Government of them. The Government of India have no intention of taking direct action on such reports, or of interfering in any way with the functions of the Local Government. If at any time it appears that a report is likely to create a wrong impression or cause needless anxiety, it will be in the power of the Local Government to prevent these results by telegraphing to this effect to the Government of India; and it is left to the Local Government to instruct their officers as to what events should, as a rule, be reported by telegraph and what by letter.

3. The Government of India regret, therefore, that they are unable to reconsider their orders on the subject. But I am to add that they do not wish those orders to be applied so as to require that copies of the telegrams from officers below the rank of Magistrate and Collector should be forwarded to them.

ORDER—No. 313, Public, dated 19th February 1898.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat for information and guidance.

2. All Collectors and District Magistrates will be instructed to despatch direct to the Government of India duplicates of telegrams in which they may report to the Local Government any events of extraordinary political or administrative importance.

3. Such cases will necessarily be of rare occurrence. Under the existing practice, it is only when immediate action is required on the part of the Government itself that events of the foregoing description are reported by telegram. It is not intended to introduce any change in this practice. Departments and officers will, however, note that it is only in the case of the more important of the events referred to in the preceding paragraph that a duplicate of the telegram despatched to the Local Government is to be communicated direct to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

for Chief Secretary.

To all Departments of the Secretariat. (P.W.D.)
„ Collectors and District Magistrates.

Exd. W. D'Moss.

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