Public Works (1898) Department.

Print [illegible]

G.O., No. 916 W

DATED 2 April 1898

4/11/98

$\frac{Fc}{1639^e}$ 22.3.00

[Despatch Abstract.]

Quarters for Secretariat Clerks at Ootacamund:

Passing orders relative to the claims of clerks in the allotment of quarters and their liability ~~for pay~~ to pay rent by deductions on pay bills throughout their stay on the hills, and calling on the Ex. Engr. to report whether the quarters are defective either as regards sanitation or extent of accommodation.

170/14

B 2-4-98

Indexed.

[P. W. 24. / 1,000—12-2-95.]

05100

15502

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
1639C 22.3.00							

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Government (1898) of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd. } 1898. *Enclosures*
Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 916 W., 2nd April 1898.

APRIL.

Quarters for Secretariat Clerks at Ootacamund

Passing orders relative to the claims of clerks in the allotment of quarters and their liability to pay rent by deductions on pay bills, throughout their stay on the hills, and calling on the Executive Engineer to report whether the quarters are defective either as regards sanitation or extent of accommodation.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read—the following papers :—

From the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, dated 9th October 1897.
„ Financial Department, dated 19th March 1898.

Order—No. 916 W., dated 2nd April 1898.

In his letter read above, the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, raises the question as to whether Secretariat clerks taking Government quarters at Ootacamund should be allowed to vacate them before the close of the season. The matter has been fully considered by Government. It is observed that in order to meet the convenience of Secretariat clerks brought up to Ootacamund, considerable expenditure has been incurred on the provision of public quarters, and if these are taken at the commencement of a season, and subsequently vacated before its close, they are not likely to be again occupied during the year. As the clerks pay rent for the period of occupation only, there would thus be an appreciable loss of revenue. It is on the other hand recognised that there would be some hardship in compelling a clerk to live in and pay rent for Government quarters when it might be more convenient and cheaper for him to make his own arrangements; or there may be other contingencies, such as a clerk vacating his quarters when he quits the station on sick leave or on transfer to Madras.

2. After consideration of all the circumstances, the Government has come to the conclusion that it would be reasonable to expect that a clerk who elects to take Government quarters should be charged rent for them throughout the period of his stay on the hills, whether he occupies them or not, unless some other clerk takes over the quarters and accepts the liability. This arrangement will accordingly be enforced in future.

3. In the allotment of quarters, the claims of clerks will be considered in the following order :—

1st. Those whose duties require them to live close to the office.
2nd. Those whose pay is Rs. 35 and less.
3rd. Other clerks according to seniority.

4. Rents should be deducted on pay bills, and in the case of bills audited by the Accountant-General, the amounts should be credited to the Public Works Department through the Exchange Accounts.

5. The Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Division, will be directed to inspect the quarters and report whether they are defective either as regards sanitation or extent of accommodation. It may be assumed that, with the exception of Ottley Hall, the quarters will all be occupied by native clerks.

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Financial Department.
„ Public Department.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Local and Municipal Department.
„ Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.
„ Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Consulting Engineer for Railways.
„ Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

9/6W

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2582

From The Financial Dept

Order

No. 714

Dated 17
Received 19
Registered 19
} March 1898

Enclosures — 1 file

Spare copies —

SUBJECT.

Secretariat clerks' quarters at Ootacamund

Offering their remarks on certain proposals of the P. W. D in connection with ——

[P. W. 20.
1,000—7-12-97.]

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
4125 C	11-10-97 ✓
3970 C	24-9-97 ✓
3937 C	22-9-97 ✓
2080 C	10-4-97 ✓
1836 C	1-4-97 ✓
1953 C	11-4-96 ✓
1089 W	19-4-87 ✓
1076 C	19-3-87 ✓
1047 C	18-3-87 ✓
789 W	14-3-87 ✓

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Public Works (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 10003

Order

From The Supg. Engineer, 4th Circle

No 534/W.

Dated 6th October 1897.

Received 9-10-97

Enclosure~~s~~ One

Spare copies ✓

SUBJECT.

Secretariat Clerks who have vacated the Government Quarters.

Submits a statement showing the names of for orders of Government if considered advisable.

CAW

02.5542

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	4125C	PW.	11-10-97
	3937C	-	22-9-97
	3970C	-	24-9-97
	2280C	-	10-4-97
	1836C	-	1-4-97
	1089W	-	19-4-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

List of Secretariat clerks who have vacated Government Quarters and wh
have made their own arrangements up to 15th September 1897.

No	Name of clerks	Pay	Name of quarters	Date on which vacated	Remarks.
1	Mr. C. A. Wilkinson, clerk Chief Secretariat	Rs 200	Abbey Hall No 2 Quarters	27. 4. 97	
2	R. Chakrapani Row. do.	30	Crewe Hall No 4 Block	1. 6. 97	
3	P.K. Kunhunni Menon. do.	30	. Do. No 2 . Do.	1. 8. 97	
4	M.R.Ry P. Vydianatha Iyer clerk P. W. D Secretariat.	80	Unmarried clerks quarters No 7	24. 6. 97	

27.9

Executive Engineer

782 CW
28 SEP 98
1

OWS. 1
10003/97

No. 534
W

Suptg. Engrs. Office 4th Circle
6th October 1897

From

J. Hannan Esq
Superintending Engineer 4th Circle

To

The Chief Engineer
P. W. Department

Sir,

Encls: 1. Statement

The Executive Engineer Coimbatore Division submits a statement shewing the names of the Secretariat clerks who have vacated the quarters provided for them by Government, and made their own arrangements for quarters with an intimation that these clerks occupied the Government quarters when they first went up to Ootacamund this year and vacated them on the dates noted against each.

I have therefore the honor to request you will, if considered advisable, be good enough to obtain orders of Government as to whether this action on the part of the clerks is permissible.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

J Hannan

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Public Works DEPARTMENT.

[43/509]

C. No. 10,003 of 1897.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.
THE HON'BLE SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E.
THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

SUBJECT.

FOR ORDERS.

Quarters for Secretariat Clerks at Ootacamund.

Please see the accompanying office note
A.A.

The Government has gone to great expense in providing quarters for Secretariat clerks at Ootacamund, and it seems unreasonable that the men should go in and out as they please, and pay only for period of occupation.

2. It would on the other hand be a hardship to compel all clerks to live in, or pay rent for, Government quarters when it might be hore convenient and cheaper for them to live with friends in the station.

3. As a reasonable compromise it might be decided that if a clerk goes into Government quarters at all, he should be responsible for the rent to the end of the season, unless some other clerk [illegible] his place. Quarters are allotted before the establishment leaves Madras for the Hills, and it is not always possible to provide for all the clerks coming up. Those

thrown

unless some other clerk [illegible] his place
A.A

The Chief Secretary for favour of countersignature.

7

thrown out have to find their own quarters as best they can. They usually have to give a six months' agreement to private landlords, so that even if Government quarters become available later in the season, these men are not in a position to avail themselves of them. It thus happens that the Government suffers loss of rent to the end of the season by the premature withdrawal of a clerk from the quarters allotted to him before the season begins. This emphasises the necessity for some restriction in the vacation of quarters.

4. The rent chargeable is one-tenth of salary, and this payment rarely covers the rent value of the quarter occupied.

5. There are 35 quarters for clerks; and this year there were 42 clerks on the establishment in all Departments.

6. I would suggest a rule in the following terms as an addition to the Madras Hill Allowance Code:-

("Quarters at Ootacamund will be offered to all Secretariat clerks coming to Ootacamund in the order of their seniority). These who elect to occupy quarters will be charged rent for

I wd add
("But those who draw Rs 35 salary ~~&~~ or less will first be ~~[illegible]~~ considered")

8

for them throughout the period of their stay on the Hills, whether they occupy them or not". X

W. H.
16.10.97

W.

X unless some other clerk ~~not~~ takes the quarters & accepts the ~~[illegible]~~ liability.

NSt
2.11.97.

R.S.

Under the circumstances pointed out by the Chief Secretary I withdraw the first part of my proposed rule (para 6 of note) and would suggest that the rule stand as follows:

"A clerk who elects to occupy Govt. quarters will be charged rent for them throughout the period of his stay on the hills whether he occupies them or not, unless some other clerk takes the quarters and accepts the liability".

If a clerk had to go away on sick leave or were transferred from Ooty on public grounds the rule wd not hold.

NSt 2.11.97

2 It seems difficult to frame a satisfactory rule on the subject of distribution of quarters. There are so many circumstances to be reckoned with of a personal as well as of an official character, and these vary from year to year, e.g.

(1) Suitableness of quarters to intending occupants, as regards
- (a) Caste of clerk & co-occupants.
- (b) Condition (Married or Single).

(2)

(2) Nature of official duties. (It is found convenient in certain cases to have a man near the office; in other cases this is not of consequence).

The matter has hitherto been arranged by the Chief Assistants of the Secretariat acting in consultation and after consideration of the merits of each case.

If any report is considered necessary as to the suitableness of the quarters generally, as suggested by the Chief Secretary, there seems no reason why either the Superintending Engineer, or the Executive Engineer in charge of the buildings, should not make it.

11. 11. 97

W.

R.S.

11/11/97

Clerks' quarters – Ootacamund

Building	Number of quarters available	
	Married	Single
Ottley Hall	5 ✓	"
Crewe Hall	"	4 ✓
Crewe Hall Bungalow	"	2 ✓
Connemara Cottage	3 ✓	"
Stonehouse Cottage	"	7 ✓
Warders' quarters, Jail Hill	8 ✓	"
Overseer's quarters Stonehouse Hill	2 ✓	"
Apothecary's quarters, Government House	3 ✓	"
Compounder's quarters	1 ✓	"
Total	22 ✓	13 ✓

R.S. 6. Nov 97

Statement showing the number and salaries of clerks who went ~~going~~ up to Ootac. with the Govt during 1897.

Name of Office	Number of clerks	Pay	
Chief Secretariat	1	Rs. 130 ✓	
	1	70 ✓	
	1	65 ✓	
	2	60 ✓	
	1	55 ✓	
	2	50 ✓	
	1	35 ✓	
	3~~2~~	30 ✓	
	1	25 ✓	
Total	13 ✓		
Revenue Department	1	170 ✓	
	1	127 ✓	
	1	80 ✓	
	2	70 ✓	
	1	60 ✓	
	1	50 ✓	
	2	40 ✓	
	1	20 ✓	
	1	45 ✓	
	1	100	Temporary clerks
	1	30	
Total	13~~11~~ ✓		
Public Works Dept.	~~1~~	~~310~~	
	1	250	General Secretariat
	1	80	
	1	50	
	2	30	
	1	80	Irrigation Branch.
	1	50	
	1	310	Railway Branch.
	1	34	
	1	26	
Total	10 ✓		
Local & Municipal Dept.	1	125 ✓	
	1	25 ✓	
Total	2 ✓		
Private Secretary's office	1	200 ✓	
	1	70 ✓	
	1	56 ✓	
	1	30 ✓	
	1		
Total	4 ✓		
Grand Total	42		

G.
73
1,000 31-7-17

NOTE FOR THE ~~Public Works Department~~ Chief Secretary

It is thought that before issuing any hard and fast dule it would be as well for P.W.D. to ascertain whether there is any good reason for the flitting of clerks from the quarters provided by Govt. at Ootacamund. As pointed out in the P.W.D. note the rent for these quarters is very moderate and it is obvious that, if they could ~~keep~~ help it, clerks would not place themselves at the mercy of Ooty landlords, who are not slow to take advantage of the season crush. As a matter of fact the rents at the Agraharams are exorbitant and the food is bad. The two Chief Secretariat clerks - Chakrapani Rao and Kunhunni Menon - mentioned in the Executive Engineer's list left Crewe Hall on account of difficulties connected with servants and messing: they were able to obtain board (of a bad description) and lodging at the Agraharam. One of them was constantly ill during the stay of Govt. on the hills. Mr. Wilkinson, the Acting Second Assistant, left Ottley Hall partly on account of messing difficulties and partly on account of the discomfort of the quarters themselves. As an example of the style of furniture, he reports that the

looking-glass

13

looking-glass was tied with a bit of string, the chest of drawers had no key and some of the bathroom furniture was in a most dilapidated state. The clerks quarters at Ootacamund were not built with a view to increasing the revenues of Govt. but in order to make the clerks as comfortable as possible in a strange place where work itself is carried on at a high pressure; any restrictions which would make life at Ooty irksome to the clerks, and especially to the native clerks, should not therefore be imposed without great caution. A rule might be laid down to the effect that a clerk leaving Govt. quarters, after they have been once allotted, without giving (in writing) good reasons would be held liable for rent for the entire period of his stay on the hills. Beyond this it would not be fair to go.

I don't think much of this. AtA

This is too vague. See my note on the P.W.D. note. AtA

2. As regards the clause in the proposed rule that quarters at Ootacamund will be offered to Secretariat clerks in the order of their seniority, it is to be observed that if by "seniority" "salary" is intended, some change will be required, as it is only fair that each department should be enabled to get the same proportion of its clerks into Govt. quarters. It is the practice in the Chief Secretariat to take up low paid men as far as possible whilst the hill establishment is naturally larger than that of other departments; if ~~pay~~ salary is to be the only criterion in the allotment of quarters a larger number of clerks will be left out in the Chief Secretariat than in other departments. Another point to be remembered is that it is the low paid men who feel most the rent ordinarily demanded from visitors in Ootacamund. It might be considered therefore whether it would not be advisable to lay down a rule that the clerks on Rs.35 and below should first be allotted quarters – the smaller ones of course.

14

This is important AtA. 2.11.97

3. Perhaps P.W.D. might also consider the desirability of obtaining a report from an independent authority – e.g., the Collector of the Nilgiris – as to the suitability of the Govt. quarters at Ootacamund. A very small expenditure might possibly make things much more comfortable for the clerks and this is the desideratum. Ootacamund is getting less healthy each year and the cost of living there is gradually ~~becoming~~ rising ~~more expensive~~. As a result the native clerks feel the change more and there was a large amount of sickness amongst the Chief Secretariat men this year. The results of this in a limited establishment need no description.

This might be done. AtA

[illegible] 27.x.97

13

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14

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This is important Ast. 2.11.97

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This might be done. Ast

Cmb. 27. x. 97

No. 13/3C, dated 4th March 1898

Quarters for Secretariat Clerks

at Ootacamund.

Note for the Public Works Department.

The accompanying file was sent by the Private Secy. to H.E. the Governor to the Chief Secretariat for further remarks. and the following suggestion is forwarded to the P.W.D. for consideration

2. The present rule as regards rent is that contained in article 16 of the Madras Hill Allowance Code, which states that when Govt. quarters are provided, a deduction of one-tenth of salary will be made for house rent, but that no more than the actual value of the quarters will be charged. In view of the proposals in the present papers, it is thought that it would be better to fix two scales of hill allowance, one ~~showing~~ being the amount admissible when quarters are not provided for clerks (that is when clerks are not offered quarters) and the other when quarters are provided (that is offered to) clerks In this way no question would arise in regard to clerks paying rent . The arrangement would be that before Govt. proceeded to the Hills, the distribution of quarters would be settled, certain clerks who would be offered quarters would receive hill allowance at one rate whilst those for whom no quarters were available would receive it at a higher rate. If the P.W.D. considers that this plan

might

might be adopted, the rates of hill allowance as given in article 15 of the Hill Allowance Code would require alteration and the P.W.D. might perhaps prepare a sliding scale to allow for rent.

3. The plan of not deducting house rent would be much simpler and would save some trouble and correspondence in the matter of remitting house rent to the officers of the P.W.D. It is to be observed that prior to 1887 [redacted] the payment of rent by clerks accompnaying Govt. to Ootacamund was not in existence. Free quarters were provided and a clerk not so provided received a lump sum as house rent for the season. The present proposal puts this in another shape, as the amount of accommodation available has considerably altered since that date.

Cnt
18/2/98

18.2.98.

No. 1313C, dated 4th March 1898

Recd 5/3/98
Repd

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
5 MAR 1898
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

CURRENT No 7 32
File

Note in the P.W. Department.

The present arrangement under which clerks occupying Government quarters are charged as rent $\frac{1}{10}$ of salary, subject to the normal rent of the quarters not being exceeded, seems the best. The difficulty felt in the Civil Departments in regard to the collection of rents can be got over by deducting the amounts in the pay bills as is done in the P.W. Department. The Accountant General will adjust the recoveries through his exchange accounts.

2. If, however, a sliding scale of allowances (with & without quarters) is preferred, the accompanying scale marked A is suggested. It is based on an average of groups of allowances. The proposed scale of allowances with quarters approximates as nearly as possible to the existing scale, but it will be seen that no deduction for quarters is made from the allowances of clerks drawing salaries of Rs. 25 and below.

3. There is a difficulty which the sliding scale will not meet. The quarters assigned to a man may be of less value than the deduction made from his allowances. He would in this case ~~thus~~ ~~virtually be~~ pay~~ing~~ more than the rent value of the quarters he occupies.

C

Note

The difficulties noticed in paras 3 & 4 seem inherent in a sliding scale.

occupies.

4. There is a further disadvantage in the sliding scale. Several clerks provided with quarters will draw less in the shape of allowances than they now do under present rules. Such men will no doubt feel dissatisfied.

5. It does not seem equitable to put men on the lower scale simply because they are offered quarters, as suggested in the Financial Department note. This scale should apply to men who are not only offered, but elect to take, Government quarters.

C.S.

1.3.98

4.3.98

To
The Finl Dept. with file of papers.

Sliding scale of Hill Allowances to be drawn by the Secretariat clerks

Salary of clerks.	Allowances now drawn		Allowances proposed		Remarks.
	Full allowance	Allowance after deducting house rent	Allowances to be drawn by clerks provided with quarters	Allowances to be drawn by clerks unprovided with quarters	
Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	
20	20	18	20	20	These clerks should be first provided with quarters
25	25	22½	25	25	
30	30	27	25	30	
35	30	26½			
40	30	26			
45	30	25½			
50	30	25			
55	30	24½			
60	30	24			
65	32½	26	30	35	
70	35	28			
75	37½	30			
80	40	32			
85	42½	34	35	45	
90	45	36			
95	47½	38			
100	50	40			
105	52½	~~44~~ 42	45	60	
110	55	46			
115	57½	48			
120	60	47½			
125	60	47			
130	60	46½			
135	60	46			
140	60	45½			
145	60	~~45~~ 55			
150	~~60~~ 70	54½	55	70	
155	70	54			
160	70	53½			
165	70	53			
170	70	52½			
175	70	52			
180	70	51½			
185	70	51			
190	70	50½			
195	70	60	60	80	
200	80	57½			
225	80	55			
250	80	52½			
275	80	70	65	100	
300	100	65			
350	100				

A.S.
1 Mar 08

1898
Finl. Dept
Enclos. No. 1
to
O. No. 732

[G/73]
500—4-8-96.

20

Financial DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE NOTE No. 714

Dated 17th March 1898.

From
THE CHIEF SECRETARY,

To
THE SECRETARY, Public Works DEPARTMENT.

The objection raised in paragraph 3 of the Public Works Department note dated 4th March 1898 makes the plan of a sliding scale impracticable.

In passing orders on the papers will Public Works Department please consider the question of obtaining a report on the present quarters and the desirability of laying down a rule regarding the allotment of quarters to low paid clerks first. These clerks need not necessarily get the best quarters.

The suggestion in the first paragraph of the Public

21

Public Works Department note dated 24th March 1898 as regards the deduction of the amounts of house-rent from pay bills might be embodied in a general order issued by Public Works Department in order to prevent objections being raised.

A Arundel
Chief Secretary.

A

No 916 W 2-4-98

5

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

Papers to be read in Proceedings :—

Print emergently

Again G.O., dated 189 , No.

Again G.O., dated 189 , No.

Current No. 10003 of 1897, dated 9th October , from the S.E. IV Circle.

" " 2582 " 1898 , " 19th March , " the Financial Dept.

" " " 189 , " , "

Draft

14P

Secretariat Clerks' Quarters — Ootacamund

H.E. the Governor ✓

~~Sir Henry Bliss K.C.I.E.~~

ORDER.

A.S.H. 1.4.98

(To The Chief Secretary for favour of counter-initials.)

In his letter read above the Superintending Engineer IV Circle raises the question as to whether Secretariat Clerks taking Government quarters at Ootacamund should be allowed to vacate them before the close of the season. The matter has been fully considered by Government. It is observed that in order to meet the convenience of Secretariat clerks brought up to Ootacamund considerable expenditure has been incurred on the provision of public quarters, and if these are taken at the commencement of a season, and subsequently vacated before its close, they are not likely to be again occupied during the year. As the clerks pay rent only for the period of occupation there would thus be an appreciable loss of revenue. It is on the other hand recognised that there would be some hardship

hardship in compelling a clerk to live in and pay rent for Government quarters when it might be more convenient and cheaper for him to make his own arrangements, or there may be other contingencies, such as a clerk vacating his quarters when he quits ~~his~~ the station on sick leave or on transfer to Madras.

2. After consideration of all the circumstances, the Government has come to the conclusion that it would be reasonable to expect that a clerk who elects to take Government quarters should be charged rent for them --- throughout the period of his stay on the hills, whether he occupies them or not, unless some other clerk takes over the quarters and accepts the liability. This arrangement will accordingly be enforced in future.

3. In the allotment of quarters the claims of clerks will be considered in the following order.

1st. Those whose duties require them to live close to the office.

2nd. Those whose pay is Rs. 35 and less.

3rd. Other clerks according to seniority.

4. Rents should be deducted on pay bills, and in the case of bills audited ~~tax~~ by the Accountant General the amounts should be credited to the P.W. Department through the Exchange Accounts.

5.

---

5. The Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Division, will be directed to inspect the quarters and report --- whether they are defective either as regards sanitation or extent of accommodation. It may be assumed that with the exception of Ottley Hall the quarters will all be occupied by Native Clerks.

R.S.

28.3.98

Act
29.3.98

Note The office note from the CS suggesting that a report on the suitableness of the quarters should be called for has not been returned from the Public Dept.

H.C. Have this put up in its proper place in the file
Cud
28/3/98

Public Dept.

The Financial Department.
,, Public Dept.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Local & Municipal Department.
,, S.E. W Circle
,, Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Consulting Engineer for Railways.
,, Examiner, P.W. Accounts.

14/4/98

O.M. No. 784/98
Put up.
Km
29-3-98

B/Pks
C.K. Jas

7-15 ✓
23-3-16 ✓
1·10·20 ✓