

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 1026 W

DATED 10 April 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bills, Legislative

Pro: Public Dept. Communicating
Letter from the Govt of India giving certain instructions
to be observed by local Govts. in submitting their reports on draft legislative
Bills, recorded.

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FURTHER PAPERS.			
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Communicating to the departments of the Secretariat letter from the Government of India giving certain instructions to be observed by Local Governments and Administrations in submitting their reports on draft-Legislative Bills.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From H. W. C. CARNDUFF, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Legislative Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 9th March 1899, No. 547.

I am directed to address you regarding the practice observed by Local Governments and Administrations in submitting their reports on Bills introduced in the Legislative Council of the Governor-General and circulated for opinion.

2. In such cases it is the practice of some Local Governments to consult large numbers of officers and others, and to forward, with little or no comment, all the replies received, irrespectively of whether or not they contain any useful criticism. The result is either that valuable opinions are in danger of being lost in the mass of papers before the Governor-General in Council and Select Committees, and may in consequence not receive the attention they deserve; or that an enormous labour is devolved upon the officers of the Supreme Government in sifting the voluminous material placed before them. I am, therefore, to say that, although a Local Government is, as a general rule, free to consult as many persons as it thinks fit, it appears to the Government of India that more discrimination in this connection might perhaps be exercised, and that none of the opinions elicited should be transmitted unless they either are concurred in or contain matter which is deemed worthy of notice and consideration. In no case, for example, should the reply of an officer be forwarded who states that he has no remarks to offer on the subject of the measure before Council, while, where a person consulted indicates approval in general terms, the Local Government might simply report the fact in its letter without enclosing any copy of the communication to that effect.

3. I am to express the hope that these observations will in future be borne in mind.

ORDER—No. 350, Public, dated 18th March 1899.

Communicated to the departments of the Secretariat.

(True Extract.)

H. W. C. Carnduff

for Chief Secretary.

To all Departments of the Secretariat. (P. W. D.)