

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No.

2629 W

DATED

7 Oct 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Famine Relief work.

Resolution of the Govt of India laying
down instructions regarding the supply of
funds on — recorded—

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

ACCOUNT.
General.

Simla, the 12th September 1899.

The Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department.
The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, General Branch.
The Secretaries to the Governments of Bengal, the North Western Provinces and Oudh and the Punjab, Public Works Department.
The Secretary to the Government of Burma, Public Works Department, General Branch.
The Chief Commissioners of the Central Provinces, Assam and Coorg.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Agents to the Governor General for Central India, Rajputana and Baluchistan.
The Superintendent of Port Blair and Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
The Accountant General, Public Works Department.
The Director General of Military Works.

The following is forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations, and officers noted on the margin, for information and guidance.

By order,

J. Williams
Joint Secretary.

No. 3570-A, dated 5th August 1899.

Resolution,—By the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department.

RESOLUTION.—During the late famine, when large amounts of copper coin were required for disbursement by Government officers at relief works remote from Government treasuries, arrangements for the supply of the coin were made in some cases with Native Bankers and sums exceeding $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs were paid to the Bankers as commission. These payments were made without previous reference to the Accountant-General and no complaint was received by the Comptroller General that the supply of coin was insufficient. The supply in fact appears to have been ample, and there is reason to believe that if the advice of the Account Officer had been obtained before the expenditure was incurred, it would have been possible, in almost all cases to arrange for the provision of the necessary funds without having recourse to the payment of commission.

2. In view of the possible recurrence of the conditions which led to this expenditure, the Governor General in Council is pleased to lay down the following instructions regarding the supply of funds on famine relief works :—

1.—Disbursing officers of Government shall ordinarily draw funds for expenditure on relief works from the nearest treasury or sub-treasury, and special arrangements for the supply of such funds through private agencies shall be permitted only in exceptional cases.

II.—No charges for commission to Bankers for cashing cheques or pay bills payable by Government or otherwise supplying funds for Government expenditure shall be passed in audit unless the arrangements under which the expenditure is incurred have been sanctioned by the Government of India.

III.—Before recommending such special arrangements Local Governments shall always satisfy themselves by reference to the Civil Account Officer of the Province that no more economical arrangement can be made, and that the particular method proposed is otherwise free from objection.

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To The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras
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