Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 3106 W

DATED 29/8/ 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

System of sending cheques to Contractors by post

Recd. Loc & mun. Dept. approving the suggestion made by the President, District Board, Lanjee, that article 445 of the Local Govt. code relating to the —— should be amended in the manner indicated, recorded

HC Prof

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Indexed: 6/V

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[P. W. 2. 500—27-10-99.]

BACK PAPERS.

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Public Works (1899) Department
Current No. 9219

Government (1899) of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. + *Regd.* { 11-11- } 1899.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 2188 L., 30th October 1899.

B/No. 3108 w 2199-99

Recorded.

OCTOBER.

Rw

Ack 7/11/99 Rw

Copy to Supdg Engineers 5 5-19-5-5 5-

for information.

30/10/99

System of sending Cheques to Contractors by post.

Approving the suggestion made by the President, District Board, Tanjore, that article 445 of the Local Fund Code relating to the — should be amended in the manner indicated.

2 Copies to PWD 2/12

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From J. TWIGG, Esq., President, District Board, Tanjore, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Camp, Vallam, 15th August 1899, Dis. No. 739-D.B.

I have the honour to submit, for the orders of Government, copy of letter No. 473-L.W., dated 7th July 1899, of the District Board Engineer regarding the sending of cheques to contractors and others by registered post.

2. In G.O., No. 363 L., dated 16th February 1899, it is laid down that cheques should be handed over to contractors direct by the disburser and in cases where it is not feasible they may be sent to them by registered post if the contractors so desire, but only at the *discretion* and on the *responsibility* of the disburser.

3. A disbursing officer cannot be expected to incur a personal responsibility even though the risk be of the slightest, simply in order to facilitate work ; and I therefore suggest that the words " and on the responsibility " may be struck out from the rule. The disbursing officer would of course be liable for any actual negligence on his part in this as in other matters.

ENCLOSURE.

From R. C. SYSON, Esq., Local Fund Engineer, to the President, District Board, Tanjore, dated Camp, Tanjore, 7th July 1899, Ref. on C. No. 473-L.W.

Since the issue of G.O., No. 363 L., dated 16th February last, it has been the custom to send cheques by post to contractors in parts of Pattukkóttai taluk when absolutely necessary to do so owing to distance and isolation from head-quarters. The practice adopted has been to obtain first a properly receipted voucher after which the cheque was sent to the contractor under registered cover at his cost. My attention has, however, just been drawn to the condition in the amended article of the Code whereby such cheques are sent " on the responsibility of the disburser " and while the system is probably and absolutely safe, I cannot accept such responsibility and have therefore stopped it meantime.

2. For the short time it has been in vogue to send cheques by post where necessary, it has been found of great convenience and has tended to facilitate work in parts of Pattukkóttai taluk in which contractors were hitherto chary of accepting small contracts owing to the inconvenience of having to come to head-quarters for payments. It is with great reluctance I have ordered the practice to be discontinued for it will certainly adversely affect the execution of small works, but while taking every precaution and being at the same time satisfied it is as near the perfection of safety as possible, I cannot accept the responsibility involved in a cheque going amissing. So long as the disburser takes all reasonable care, sends cheques by registered post and only in such cases as are absolutely necessary he has done all that should be required of him and if you agree with me, I have the honour to request that Government may be addressed to amend article 445 of the Local Fund Code accordingly. If the system of compelling contractors to come to head-quarters for payment has to be reverted to permanently, it will be a serious drag on the execution of work in many parts of Pattukkóttai taluk.

No. 924.

Referred to the Accountant-General for remarks.

(By Order.)

(Signed) A. EDGINGTON,
Ag. Assistant Secretary.

5th September 1899.

From T. HESKETH BIGGS, Esq., Accountant-General, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Fort St. George, 8th October 1899, No. L.F.D.—587.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 924, dated the 5th September 1899, on a letter from the President, District Board, Tanjore, regarding the system of sending cheques to contractors by post, I have the honour to state that there appears to be no objection to the proposed alteration of the rule, for, as stated by the President, the disbursing officer would still be liable for any actual neglect on his part.

ORDER—No. 2188 L., dated 30th October 1899.

The suggestion made by the President in paragraph 3 of his letter read above is approved.

(True Extract.)

for *Ag. Secretary to Government.*

To the President, District Board, Tanjore.
" all other Presidents of District Boards.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.