

Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 341 W

DATED ^{2nd} 3 February 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]
Charges for Landing and Shipping of Stores and the
Cost of Newspapers and Periodicals

Ans: The Deptt requesting the
Accountant Genl. to carry out certain alterations in the
Civil Estimates for 1898-1899 in regard to the
debit of the Communicated to the
Officers of the Deptt.

24/2/99
H.C.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers:—

G.O., Mis. No. 496, Financial, dated 2nd June 1898.

Read—the following letter from T. HESKETH BIGGS, Esq., Accountant-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 18th May 1898, No. 1943:—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, a statement showing the charges for boat-hire, landing charges and cooly hire incurred in shipping and danding Government stores of the several civil departments for the past three years, and to state that at present these are paid by this office to the Deputy Conservator of the Port and the Agent for Government Consignments on bills submitted by them, and are debited by me to the departments concerned.

2. The system, however, by which the amounts are first calculated with reference to each department and then billed for by the two officers above mentioned, and are subsequently distributed and adjusted by me among the various departments involves an immense amount of clerical labour in the offices of all concerned, which does not appear to be justified by the importance of the items of charge, many of which do not exceed a few annas. As the Agent for Government Consignments has already a small budget allotment for boat and cooly hire, I have the honour to suggest that he be authorized to meet the charge now in question as his own contingencies.

3. The Agent for Government Consignments, who has been consulted about the proposed alteration, considers it desirable, but to enable him to meet the extra expenditure, he will require an additional allotment of Rs. 1,250 as shown in the statement already mentioned, which if approved might be transferred to him from the grants of the officers shown in the margin who will chiefly be relieved of the expenditure they now have to meet.

1. Superintendent of Madras Survey	Rs. 30
2. Do. of Stamps	350
3. Inspector-General of Police	100
4. Director of Cinchona Plantations	50
5. Superintendent, Government Press	120
6. Superintendent of Stationery	400
7. Board of Revenue, Separate Revenue	100
Total	1,150

4. The Agent for Government Consignments will also need a slightly larger permanent advance than he now has, and this he proposes to obtain by the transfer to himself of Rs. 100 from the permanent advance of the Deputy Conservator of the Port who now pays the money on the requisition of the Agent. This will, in my opinion, be the proper course to follow and has the approval of the Presidency Port Officer. Government sanction will be necessary to the alteration of the permanent advances.

5. As the above proposal is merely one of procedure and account and does not involve any extra expenditure and has also the concurrence of the Presidency Port Officer, I trust that it will meet with the approval of Government and that early orders will be issued.

Order—Mis. No. 496, Financial, dated 2nd June 1898.

The Accountant-General will, with reference to paragraph 4 of Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department letter No. 1659-A., dated 14th April 1898, consult the Comptroller-General as regards the proposed change of classification which

commends itself to this Government. He will also be requested to consider at the same time whether a similar saving of labour might not be effected in the adjustment of other general charges, such as the cost of periodicals purchased through Messrs. Baker and Co., subscriptions to Indian newspapers, &c.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
Chief Secretary.

To the Accountant-General.

G.O., No. 1030, Financial, dated 8th November 1898.

Read—again G.O., Mis. No. 496, Financial, dated 2nd June 1898.

Read—also the following papers:—

From T. HESKETH BIGGS, Esq., Accountant-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 12th August 1898, No. 3921.

With reference to G.O., No. 496, Financial, dated the 2nd of June 1898, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of my letter, No. 2406, dated the 28th idem, to the address of the Comptroller-General and his reply thereto, No. 709, dated the 26th July 1898.

ENCLOSURES.

From T. HESKETH BIGGS, Esq., Accountant-General, to the Comptroller-General, Calcutta, dated Fort St. George, 28th June 1898, No. 2406.

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of my letter, No. 1943, dated the 18th May 1898, to the Local Government with its enclosure regarding payment of charges in connection with landing and shipping Government stores of the several civil departments in this Presidency and a copy of the reply, No. 496, dated the 2nd instant, received thereto for orders. The procedure suggested appears to be in accordance with the principle laid down in article 1006, Civil Account Code, and will save a very large amount of unnecessary clerical labour in the offices of all concerned.

As regards the latter portion of the same order, I have the honour to state that the present practice is for Messrs. Baker and Co., London, to furnish Government with half-yearly invoices of periodicals supplied by them to different departments. On receipt of Government sanction in this office, the payments are made and debited in the first instance to "32. Miscellaneous". The items on the invoice are subsequently distributed among the various departments

	RS.
3. Land Revenue	370
5. Salt	30
9. Customs	101
11. Forest	747
12. Registration	96
18. General Administration	1,893
19 (A). Law and Justice—Courts of Law	881
19 (B). Law and Justice—Jails	30
20. Police	622
22. Education	1,929
24. Medical	1,100
25. Political	55
26. Scientific, &c., Departments	2,146
Total	10,000

supplied and the necessary adjustments are then made by means of transfer entries. Subscription to Indian newspapers are, however, debited to the offices supplied when bills are paid. There would doubtless be a saving of clerical labour if the suggestion of Government that the cost of books and periodicals should be taken to a general head instead of being distributed among the departments concerned could be carried out. The cost of the periodicals and newspapers amounts roughly to Rs. 10,000 a year as in the margin and might, if you approve of the proposal, be debited to "32. Miscellaneous—Subscriptions to Periodicals, &c."

From O. T. BARROW, Esq., Officiating Comptroller-General, to the Accountant-General, Madras, dated Calcutta, 26th July 1898, No. 709.

With reference to your letter No. 2406 of the 28th ultimo, regarding a proposed change in the method of adjustment of landing and shipping charges and cost of supplying newspapers and periodicals, I have the honour to say that, on a consideration of the circumstances of the case, I do not think it expedient to introduce the changes proposed. But I would suggest that for items of landing and shipping charges less than Rs. 50 in amount, the Agent for Government Consignments and Deputy Conservator of Port might be asked to obtain direct cash payment from the offices concerned, if this course be found more convenient. This is what is done in Calcutta.

From T. HESKETH BIGGS, Esq., Accountant-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 1st October 1898, No. 4496.

In reply to your memorandum No. 2002, dated the 17th instant, requiring me to report the circumstances in which the system of debiting the cost of books and periodicals to a general head prior to 1888-89 came to be altered, I have the honour to refer you to Rule 3 of the rules regarding the supply of newspapers, &c., published in G.O., No. 77, Financial, dated the 8th February 1889, which appear to have been based on the Government of India Resolution No. 5967, Finance and Commerce, dated 1st November 1888, embodied in G.O., No. 864, Financial, dated the 20th idem.

Order—Mis. No. 1030, Financial, dated 8th November 1898.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

READ—also the following paper:—

From A. WHEELER, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 17th December 1898, No. 5530-A.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1031, dated the 8th November 1898, proposing (1) that payments of charges in connection with the landing and shipping of Government stores of the several civil departments in the Madras Presidency may be met by the Agent for Government Consignments out of his contingent grant instead of being distributed among the various departments concerned and (2) that the cost of newspapers and periodicals may be debited to the head "32. Miscellaneous" and not to the departments to which they are supplied.

2. In reply I am to say that the Government of India are pleased to sanction the proposals.

Copy forwarded to the Comptroller and Auditor-General and to the Accountant-General, Madras, for information.

ORDER—No. 1258, Financial, dated 27th December 1898.

The Accountant-General will be requested to carry out the necessary alterations in the civil estimates for 1899-1900, and report the same for the information of Government.

(True Extract.)

A. Edgington
for Chief Secretary.

To the Accountant-General
" all Departments of the Secretariat.
" Superintendent of Stationery.
" Postmaster-General.