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FINANCIAL.

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G.O., No. 905, 19th November 1895.

NOVEMBER.

Revenue.

Communicating to the Departments of the Secretariat resolution of the Government of India forwarding extract paragraph 2 of the letter in the Home Department and copy of enclosures therein mentioned, in which it is laid down that no measure involving an abandonment of Revenue to any material extent should be adopted by the Government of India without the previous sanction of the Secretary of State.

WITH CLERK

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Resolution of the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department (Accounts, etc.—Rules and General Matters), dated Simla, the 7th November 1895, No. 5320-A.

Read—

The following extract from the letter in the Home Department to the address of the Government of Bombay, No. 132, dated the 14th October 1895:—

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of your letter asking for a copy of the standing orders under which any alienation of general revenues requires the sanction of the Government of India, I am directed to refer to the circular memorandum from the Finance Department, No. 3176, dated the 30th April 1862, and to paragraph 2 of the letter from that department to the address of the Government of Bombay, No. 1176, dated the 19th February 1869. I am also to forward an extract, paragraphs 2 and 3, from a despatch from the Secretary of State (No. 82, Financial), dated the 10th March 1887, in which it was laid down that no measure which must or may involve an abandonment of revenue to any material extent should be adopted by the Indian Government without the previous sanction of the Secretary of State. It is plain from this that no alienation of general revenues should be ordered by a Local Government without reference to the Government of India.

Read also—

The following papers referred to in the above extract:—

No. 3176, *Financial Department*, Fort William, the 30th April 1862.

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM.

From certain papers now before Government, His Excellency the Governor-General in Council observes that the Local Governments and authorities appear to entertain an idea that it is competent to them to alienate a portion of the Imperial Revenues and devote the proceeds to local purposes, or for the formation of special funds for particular purposes, without obtaining the sanction of this Government to such alienation, the effect of such proceedings being to cause much complication in the accounts.

2. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council therefore directs that, whenever it may be thought necessary to sanction any measures which the standing orders of the Finance Department do not provide for, the authority of this Government shall be obtained for carrying them out.

3. In issuing these orders, however, His Excellency in Council wishes it to be clearly understood that he does not desire to overrule the discretion of Local Governments and authorities in such matters, but simply to ensure that they are properly explained and duly considered before any departure from the prescribed practice is sanctioned.

Extract paragraph 2 of the letter from the Government of India, Finance Department, to the Government of Bombay, No. 1176, dated the 19th February 1869.

2. It is a well-known constitutional rule of the administration that no item of Imperial Revenue may be deviated to form an asset of any special or local fund without the particular sanction of the Governor-General in Council. Such sanction could rarely, if ever, be accorded.

Extract paragraphs 2 and 3 from a Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 82 (Financial), dated the 10th March 1887.

2. In paragraph 11 of the Director-General's letter, the loss of revenue resulting from the reduction of registration fees and newspaper postage is estimated at 2½ lakhs; and I observe that these reductions of postal rates were made by your Government without reference to the Secretary of State.

3. As the Secretary of State is responsible for the expenditure of Indian revenues in India, of which he, in Council, has exclusive control, it is, in my opinion, clear that no measure which must or may involve an abandonment of revenue to any material extent should be adopted by the Indian Government without his previous sanction.

Order.—Ordered that copies of the above be forwarded for information to all Local Governments and Administrations (except the Government of Bombay), to the Departments of the Government of India, to the Comptroller and Auditor-General, and to the several Accountants-General and Comptrollers.

(Signed) J. F. FINLAY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

ORDER—No. 905, Financial, dated 19th November 1895.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat.

(True Extract)

[Handwritten signature and text]
Chief Secretary

To the Departments of the Secretariat.

[Handwritten signature]