

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1009

DATED 28 7 97

INDEXED.

21
30.7.97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Approving, with remarks, the Estimate for
the residence of the Govt. Astronomer at
Kodakanal, submitted by the Consulting
Architect.

42/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 668



3 orders as to what is to be done with this provincial construction. Should P.W. Dept be requested to prepare a statement to be placed on record with it. & then copies of both be sent to India?

From

The Govt Astronomer.
Madras.

No. 42.

Dated 18th February 1897.

Received 19th } Do
Registered 19th }

Enclosures

Spare copies

Note

Plans restricted sent by Astronomer on 23/7/96. H
Transferred from Public to P.W.D. on 14/8/96
Sent to Govt of India 19/9/96
The provincial sanction of the Govt of India to the estimate was dated 7/1/97.

Mk.
5/3/97

When should be over till G.O. no 13425 d 21-12-96 in relation to the erection of the buildings at Kodai.

SUBJECT

Requesting Govt. with reference to G.O. no 141 dated 13th February 1897 Public, to record his formal and emphatic protest against the continued delay in connection with the erection of the buildings at Kodai. Kanad.

become available

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	577	Pub	1-5-97
	141	Pub	13-2-97
	R 1331	..	28-12-96
	1342/3	..	21-12-96
	1354	..	18-12-96
	R 115-1	..	30-10-96
	R 1074	..	16-10-96
	1097	..	8-10-96
	707	..	3-7-96
	R 553	..	8-5-96
	200	..	24-3-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	223	..	13-2-97
	1024	..	16-12-96

No. 42...

THE OBSERVATORY.

NUNGUMBAUKUM.

Madras, 18th February 1897.

FROM

THE GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER,

Madras.

TO

The Hon'ble Mr. J. F. Price,
Chief Secretary to Government.

SIR,

With reference to G.O. No. 141, dated 13th Feby 1897, Public, I have the honor to request that you will record my formal and emphatic protest against the continued delay in connexion with the erection of the buildings at Kodalkanal.

2. No revision of the design for the Observatory will be rendered necessary by the proposals regarding the reorganization of the Indian observatories, so that this supposed cause for delay does not exist.

3. I trust that this protest will not be considered out of place, since outside India where the methods of Public Works Department are unknown the blame for the extraordinary delay that has already taken

place is not unnaturally laid on
my shoulders.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

C. Michie Smith

Govt. Astronomer.

The Observatory,
NUNGUMBAUKUM,

Madras, 8th March 1897.

Dear Mr. Sim

I learn from a G.O. that has been
sent me (No 360 W dated 5th Feb 1897 Public) that
the revised estimate for the Astronomer's
House at Kodaikanal amounts to
Rs 20,958 instead of Rs 20,000 as
sanctioned so that the fresh
sanction of the Govt. of India
is required before work can be
begun.

The reason for this, I believe, is that
the rates adopted in making
out the estimate are very high
& there is one very simple method
of getting over the difficulty
& at the same time improving
the house. If I am right in
my opinion all that is requisite

place is not unna-
my shoulders.

I have

Your most

C.

Gor

is to have all the wood-work
& ornamental work
prepared in Madras
under competent supervision
If this were done I believe
the estimate could be at
once reduced to the required
sum.

I know something about
building at Kodakamal
but, of course, I do not
wish my bare statement
to be taken for this but
if His Excellency would
ask Mr Harris the Consulting
architect his opinion on
this point I am convinced
that he would find that
I am right.

I have great hesitation in
troubling His Excellency again
on this subject but so far
as I can see it is the only
way in which any progress
can be made so that I trust
he will forgive me.

Yours sincerely

Christie Smith

C. No. 668

~~H. E. THE GOVERNOR.~~

~~SUBJECT.~~

THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.

~~THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.~~

H.E. The Governor
12/3/97

FOR ORDERS.

Should say this might
be lodged

RS
11/3/97

1. The delay over this work has been scandalous, and I cannot but sympathize with Mr. Michie Smith in his indignation.
2. I enclose a D.O. from Mr. M. Smith in which he suggests a possible way of reducing the estimate to Rs. 20,000, and thus saving the delay of a further reference to the Govt. of India. It should be sent to the Consulting Engineer for consideration of Mr. Smith's suggestion, and say whether he would adopt it, and thereby reduce the estimate to Rs. 20,000 or less.

RS 19.3.97

I am in doubt what to do with this letter. The delay appears to be unavoidable and the Govt. is to be responsible for what has taken place. Should the letter be recorded or transferred to the P.W.D. Mr. Michie Smith has it is well known a thin skin. What does it matter what the outside world says so long as his employers put no blame on his shoulders?

RS
18/3/97.

P 20

Official Memorandum No. 733
24.3.97.

With reference to G.O. No. 360 W., d/ 5th Feb. 1897, the Chief Engineer, P.W.D., is requested to consider a suggestion that has been made that the estimate amounting to Rs. 20958 for constructing a residence for the Astronomer at Kodalkanal might be reduced to Rs. 20,000 ^{or less} if all the wood work and ornamental work ^{required} for it were prepared in Madras under competent supervision, and to give his opinion whether the suggestion could be adopted and whether the object in view would be thereby attained.

To

The Chief Engineer,
P.W.D.

Reminder sent on 19-5-97
as per order of the Government

Note

Enclosure

70B
20.3.97.

22/3/97

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 2645

From

The Public Works Dept.

Order

No. 825A.

Dated

16

Received

16

Registered

17

7-97

Enclosures

— 17 (3 plans)

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding letter from
the Consulting Architect to
Govt. No. 223/3-7-97 sub-
mitting the plan and estimate
for the residence of the
Govt. Astronomer at
Kodaikanal.

5-30 PM
17-7-97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 8250

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

MEMORANDUM.

Ootacamund

Dated Madras, 16th July 1897.

Letter from the Consulting Architect to Government No. 883 dated 3rd July 1897.

Note by the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. dated 16th July 1897. No. 8242:—

The estimate may be sanctioned, but the undersigned is doubtful whether it is advisable to use mango wood for the boarded floors and doors unless it is very superior to any wood of the kind that he has seen. The materials, except the masonry, may be prepared in Madras by the Consulting Architect, but the work should be carried out by the Executive Engineer, Madras Division, who is now constructing the observatory buildings.

(Signed) J. Neil Campbell, Esq.,
Chief Engineer.

Forwarded

Forwarded to the Public Department for approval with reference to Memo. No. 733 dated 24th March 1897.

J. H. P. Col. R. E.,
Secretary to Govt.

2/2/97

20
The Public Department
with papers in original

R 20.7.97 R 24.7.97
I should be doubtful as to mango wood floors, but mango wood should do for the doors of the less important. ~~Assumed~~ mango wood is what I alluded to & should last well where there are no salt water. In the same room (but there are no white ant.) the chin work round doors & windows might well be omitted. A saving might be effected by having all the windows in the 4 bath rooms - all that is wanted in a bath room up here is that one of the small top panels shall be glazed & the other be fitted with perforated zinc. The window in the dressing room is so placed that when there is an ordinary sized dressing table in front of it, it will not be easy to pass through the door into the bath room - but just to these remarks, I should be
Instructed to the S. H. 20/7/97

Assuming plastering might certainly be omitted in the subsidiary building. It is very expensive on the hills & quite unnecessary. The plastered ceiling might also be omitted, if unnecessary. It will save money. We should be able to do without such ceilings up here.

24.7.97

Public Dept:

C.No.2615

Subject
Govt astronomer's
residence at Kodai
kanal.

FOR ORDERS

In accordance with P.E. the Governor's note of the 19th March last, the Chief Engineer, P.W.D. was requested to consider the suggestion to reduce the estimate for the Astronomer's residence at Kodai Kanal from Rs.20,253 to Rs.20,000 or less, having all the wood work and ornamental work prepared in Madras under competent supervision. (O.M.No.753 Pub., d/24th March 1897). After very considerable delay a revised estimate is now submitted by the Consulting Architect reducing the amount from Rs.20,253 to Rs.19,665. The Chief Engineer in forwarding the same remarks that the estimate may be sanctioned but that he is doubtful whether it is advisable to use mango wood for the boarded floors and doors unless it is very superior to any wood of the kind that he has seen; that the materials except the masonry may be prepared in Madras by the Consulting Architect, but that the Executive Engineer, Madras Division, who is now constructing the Observatory ^{buildings} should carry out the work. The report flagged T states that plans and estimates have been prepared for the construction of the following buildings:--

- (1) Residence for the Astronomer including

including kitchen, lady's room, store, and lav. rooms approach road and clearance of site;

(2) coach house and stalls for the horses;

(3) two huts for servants, with latrine.

Meanwhile the Govt. of India in its letter No. 1735/4-5 of the 9th instant has requested that the building of the Kodakmal Observatory may be pushed on as rapidly as possible.

Orders are solicited.

* This is being communicated to the P. W. D. (for issuing) abstract of C 2615 put up

C.W. 19.7.97 Submitted that this estimate may be sanctioned! The suggestion about

mango wood has been made by the Consulting Architect Sae Moti. (note his note at)

It is a question for decision whether his opinion or that of the Chief Engineer is to be accepted.

I doubt if the Chief Engineer has any

experience of mango wood used on

the hills. Kodakmal is a dry hill

situated with a soil which dries

rapidly and with out the floors

which are the only part of the building

likely to suffer from damp will be

well off the ground and well ventilated.

I have seen mango wood cut well on the plains when used in doors and my impression

of the hills is that wood of all sorts last

better in them than on the plains. It is on

the hills - some 5000 ft - safe from the ants which

are the chief destroying cause of soft woods on the plains.

I don't think the estimate provides for any ventilation under floors. It should

19/7/97

NOTE FOR THE Chief Secretary

with reference to

Mr's notes of the 20th

ultimo attention is

solicited to those points

of the Estimate flagged

A & B respectively. From

these it would appear

that ventilation under

the floors has been

provided for in the

Estimate. It is therefore

for consideration

Orders are therefore

solicited whether

indrafting the

mango wood

is to be

① allowed for the floors

② disallowed " " "

or whether the matter should

be left to the discretion

of the P. W. D.

C.W. 24.7.97

attention to the
from the P. W. D.
under the circumstances
the floors would
be provided for in the
Estimate. It is therefore
for consideration
Orders are therefore
solicited whether
indrafting the
mango wood
is to be
① allowed for the floors
② disallowed " " "

Kodaikanal Observing
 Stationer's residence.

Mango, I should say w. do
 BS

Yes, certainly
 BS

I don't know anything about
 this alleged defect
 in mango wood. My recollection
 is that it is a defect at Kodaikanal
 in the mango wood which
 is used for flooring.
 I have seen it
 used as a floor
 but I am not
 sure. I am a layman
 about it.

I never heard of this wood
 decaying it should be so if there
 is proper ventilation
 BS

27/7/57

NOTE FOR THE Honble Mr. W. B. S. K. S.

With ref to the Honble
 member's notes of the 20th
 instant it is respectfully
 submitted that, at the place
 marked and flagged
 in the detailed and abstract
 estimates respectively, there
 is provision for ventilation
 under floors. Orders are
 therefore solicited whether
 under the circumstances
 mango wood or teak is to
 be sanctioned for the flooring.

It is submitted that teak
 wood maybe used provided
 the limit of Rs 20,000 be not
 exceeded in the estimate. Mango
 wood is, it is understood, sub-
 -ject to dry-rot crumbling away
 into powder. The use of even
 seasoned mango wood, would
 it is thought be a risky venture.

25.7.57
 26.7.57
 26/7/57
 26/7/57

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Current No. 668

of 1897, dated 18/2, from

The fort Astronomer

" " 2645

" 1897, " 16/7, "

The P. W. D.

" "

" 189 , " , "

C.S.

ORDER.

W. 1009 of 28 July 97

His

The Estimate is approved ^{below}
Subject to the remarks ~~below~~

The P.W.D. will be requested
to ^{carry out} ~~superintend~~ the work ~~concerning~~
with the least possible delay.
- ~~thoroughly with efficiency~~

① Mango wood should be
used for the less important
doors and the flooring ~~in~~
in the latter case teak can
be provided without ex-
ceeding the Estimate limit of Rs 20,000.

② ~~Chunam~~ Chunam work round
doors and windows ^{should be omitted}.

③ In the 4 bath rooms one
of the small top panels should
be glazed, ^{and} the other fitted
with perforated zinc, and the
windows omitted

④ The window in the dressing
room is so placed that
when

① is for the C.S.'s approval
with ref to H.M.'s
notes of 27.7.97

C.W.
27.7.97

Further there is ~~an~~ ^{of ordinary size} ~~ordinarily~~ sized dressing table in front of it, it will not be easy to pass through the door into the bath-room. This defect should be remedied.

③ Chuanan plastering in the subsidiary buildings should be omitted as very expensive on the hills and unnecessary.

④ The panelled ceiling should also be omitted if necessary to ^{effect} ~~achieve~~ a saving.

(from orders)

CW. MX. 28/7/57
27.7.97. 28/7/57.

* submitted that ~~the~~ exact wording may be followed here.

To

The P.V.D. g = both sets with plans
Estimate returned
The foot Astronomer g of 668
and p of 2645

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 189

DATED

Order No.

Enclosures to G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PATERS NOT FILED UP, BEING KEPT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

A - Copy in full.
B - Not to be copied.
C - Copy abstract only.
D - Copy heading only.