

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1515

DATED 23. 11. 97.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Pro: P.W.D. directing that the Govt. Astronomer be requested to give his opinion in regard to using clay for foundation at a damp place like Kodakanal & that a reply be sent to the G.O. as regards the progress made with the meteorological buildings at Kodakanal.

23/11/97

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Pub. R X334
28-12-96

Pub Sept CURRENT No 4/62

**BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.**

Government (1897) of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

Recd. 3 - 11 }
Regd. 3 - 4. } 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

8/11/97
 10/11/97

G.O., No. 2850 W., 11th October 1897.

OCTOBER.

Order No. 1515 and 1516
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9/11/7 22.11.78/12/79

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Meteorological buildings at Kodaikanal

Directing that the Government Astronomer be requested to give his opinion in regard to using clay for foundations at a damp place like Kodaikanal and that a reply be sent to the Government of India as regards the progress made with the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

READ—the following papers:—

From A. R. BECHER, Esq., Officiating Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department (Account—Civil Works), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 6th August 1897, No. 149 A./C.W.

With reference to your telegram, dated 20th July 1897, regarding the reduction of expenditure in the Public Works Department in Madras, I am directed to request that you will report what progress has been made on each work in connection with the Meteorological buildings at Kodaikānal, and further that you will state whether the reduction, amounting to Rs. 32,000, in the grant for these works is owing to an anticipated lapse to that extent.

From Lieutenant-Colonel O. V. BODDY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Theekady, 2nd September 1897, No. 1236 M.D.

With reference to your telegram, dated 14th August 1897, calling for a statement of expenditure and present state of the Meteorological buildings at Kodaikānal, I have the honour to report on the various buildings as follows:—

Quarters for the First Assistant to the Government Astronomer.—The purchase for this purpose of a house and land, the property of Mr. W. H. Doll, was sanctioned in G.O., No. 853 W., dated 9th March 1896. The purchase price was Rs. 4,000 and the property has been acquired for this sum. An estimate, amounting to Rs. 660, for putting the house into a state of repair was also sanctioned and the repairs have been carried out. This estimate provides for putting in new doors and windows, but the old doors and windows which had been taken down, were afterwards recovered and the repairs were carried out at a cost of Rs. 238-7-0.

The Executive Engineer, I find, has purchased a few articles of furniture at a cost of Rs. 90 and is building a small cook-room and stable at an estimated cost of Rs. 100.

This house will be eminently useful as a rest-house from which to inspect and superintend the building of the Observatory, and the charges incurred by the Executive Engineer may, I consider, be allowed.

The total cost of the building will, therefore, be Rs. 4,428 against sanctioned estimates of Rs. 4,660.

In G.O., No. 3513 W., dated 8th December 1896, was communicated the sanction of the Government of India for the provision of quarters for the First, Second and Third Assistants and for the peons. The quarters for the First Assistant have been acquired

as above, and it was thought that the quarters for the remaining members of the establishment were also to be constructed on this acquired land of 7.7 acres. As it was late in the year, the Executive Engineer selected sites and proceeded with the excavation. I inspected the sites in March and approved of them, but finding that they had not been approved by the Government Astronomer, I sent him site plans. The Government Astronomer did not approve, and considered that the sites for these buildings should be on other portions of the Observatory lands. Finally, the Government Astronomer visited Kodaikānal last month* and in his letter, No. 143, dated 22nd July 1897, informed me that he had, in company with the Executive Engineer, selected three sites which he considered to be suitable. I have now examined these sites and also trial pits and agree with the Government Astronomer. The sites are on very sloping ground, and will necessitate considerable cutting into the hill side to form a level platform on which to build.

A contractor has been obtained to carry out these works, and I have approved of the contract agreement. The time within which the work is to be executed is the 28th February 1898.

I would refer you to paragraph 11 of my letter, No. 1110 M.D., dated 6th August 1897, and request permission to proceed with the foundations in stone in clay. The sub-soil is hard disintegrated rock, and the excessive cost and delay in obtaining lime from the plains induces me to ask your sanction to this deviation.

The expenditure on these quarters, which is chiefly in connection with the sites originally selected is Rs. 113, and the cost of trial pits only—the newly selected site—is Rs. 6.

Residence for the Government Astronomer.—The estimate for this work has not yet been received sanctioned and there has been no expenditure on it.

In G.O., No. 1, Public, dated 4th January 1897, the necessity for building this residence first was recognized.

Observatory.—The sanction to the construction of this building was communicated in G.O., No. 445 W., dated 15th February 1897.

After some correspondence with the Executive Engineer, whom I instructed to advertise for tenders, and who referred me to the above-quoted Government Order, Public, notices inviting tenders were published in the Gazettes on the 1st June. On the 25th May your orders to proceed with the work without waiting for the plans and estimates of the Astronomer's residence were received.

I have already fully reported to you the result of the call for tenders in my letter, No. 1110 M.D., dated 6th August 1897.

An estimate has been prepared and will be submitted shortly in which the proposals made in that letter are given effect to. The estimate amounts to Rs. 41,150.

The Government Astronomer has fixed the true N. and S. points, and the building has been laid out on the ground.

The expenditure on the building is as under:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Roughstone collected at site	1,155	9	9
Planting trees	165	6	4
Marking out the Observatory building on the site and erection of temporary pillars and preparations to fix correct meridians	88	14	5
Lockspitting	34	9	6
Constructing cooly lines	447	14	7
Forming roads, &c.	407	1	5
Total	2,299	8	0

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department (Account—Civil Works), dated 10th September 1897, No. 149/1 A.-C./W.

CHIEF SECRETARY
-3 NOV 1897
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

ORDER—No. 2850 W., dated 11th October 1897.

In his letter recorded above, the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, requests permission to proceed with the foundations of the quarters for Second and Third Assistants and peons in stone and clay. Clay does not seem to be a suitable material for a damp place like Kodaikānal; but before deciding on the matter, the Government Astronomer will be requested to give his opinion.

2. Ordered that the following reply be sent to the Government of India.

[Here enter No. 2851 W., dated 11th October 1897.]

(True Extract.)

C. M. Muller
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
" Public Department. ✓
" Government Astronomer.

Esd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____ } 169

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____
189.

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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