

Public Works (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 533 R

DATED 5th August-
1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Palghat - Divided Railway - Letter to
with the views of the Indian Govt.
India forwarding copy of letter from Agent S.D.R.
submitting certain proposals for the construction
& working of the —

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	531-32R	P. M. D. (Ry)	5-8-97				

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	757R	P. M. D. (Ry)	1-10-97				

Consulting Engineer's Current No. 3183

Copy ex of letter from the Agent South Indian Railway, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, No. 753 dated 22nd July 1897.

In continuation of my letter No. 745 dated 20th July 1897, I have the honour to inform you that I have received the following telegram from the Managing Director.

"Even assuming some delay in commencing work, Board
"are willing to undertake en bloc the three lines Madura
"Pamban, Palghat-Bhindral, British portion Tinnevely-
"Quilon as integral portions of South Indian; also con-
"struct Travancore portion at cost and work same at 50
"per cent provided first two years maintenance charged
"to Capital. Communicate Government to ensure considera-
"tion Simla Conference in August."

2. I presume this telegram is in reply to the message I wired at your request and of which I sent you a copy in my letter above quoted although it ^{does} ~~should~~ not deal specifically with the matter raised in Government of India letter No. 837 R.C. dated 20th May 1897.

3. Will you kindly communicate the Board's telegram embodied in the first paragraph of this letter to the Government of India in time to admit of its consideration at the approaching Railway Conference.

URGENT
TELEGRAM ORDINARY
DEFERRED

FROM

TO

R.

Works
Simla

No. 17 B/. Your wire 1192. A.C.
fourteenth instant. Agent South
Indian has received following
wire from Board - begins -
Even assuming some delay
in commencing work Board
are willing to undertake en-
bloc the three lines Madurai
Pamban, Palghat - Dindigul,
British portion Sinnerelly -
Ludlow as integral portion of
South Indian also construct
Travancore portion at Cochin and
work same at fifty per cent
provided first two years
maintenance charged to Capital
Communicate Government
to ensure consideration Simla
Conference message ends.
Views of this Government
Shall

shall be communicated
as early as possible

Telegram dated 23/7/97

Consulting Engineer's Circular No. 3/83.

Current

From No. 532 dated 5/8/97
H. L. P.W.D. Bz
Madras

His Excellency the Governor
The Honble Sir Henry Bliss, K.C.S.I.
The Honble Sir J. R. S. C.S.I.
Li

3017/97
x May A

x May B

In my letter No. 530. Rev 532 of the date I have
addressed you on the subject of the Madras Pamban and Thiruvallur
Quilms reference in the accompanying copy of a letter from the Agent
of the S.I.R. No. 753. dated the 22nd July 97. I am now
desirous to address you on the subject of the Palghat-Dindigul
reference. My telegram No. 173 dated the 23rd July 97 will have
already put you in possession of the substance of the Company's offer.

2.- This Government are not in a position to consider the
question of the agency to which the Palghat-Dindigul railway should
be entrusted, in time for the approaching conference. Neither is this
time ripe for such consideration, for it seems scarcely possible that
this particular line can under any circumstances find a place for
early construction in the railway programme for all India, which
is referred to in the Budget discussion in the Fourth of India
Part VI. of the 27th March 97. and in the Hon. Mr. ...

3017/97
4/8/97

3. - India are doubtless aware that Madras R. Co. are
the S. I. R. Co. for the concession to make and
a recent relaxation of the restrictions which
is that the Madras R. Co. should raise objections
possible that ~~they~~, on due consideration of the case
be thought wise to submit it to them. There seems to
recur to believe that the tendency of the flow of trade
is towards the West Coast ports. and with the early extension
of the Madras R. System to Cannanore, and later perhaps to Cochin
this tendency may in time become emphasized.

4. Again there are other considerations, viz, the comparative
importance of a break of gauge as a toll upon traffic as
compared with the advantages of a cheap water gauge. ^{and} the
possibility of its being found advisable to lengthen the through water
connection with Nangangod via Dindigul, Padanur, Dettipollur and
Satyamangalam instead of via Trichy. These and other considerations
require looking into, and the case cannot ^{therefore} be ready for presentation
to the Government of India for some time to come.

5. The Madras R. Co. have now again sent in a very
strong remonstrance against any concession being made to the
S. I. R. Co. for the Trichy Satyamangalam branch, on the grounds
that a Nangangod connection will stop traffic now coming on their line
at Bangalore ^{at Bangalore} and such an extent that they, or rather their State Government, will
be losers to the extent of the rebate for annum. This matter
is being enquired into shall form the subject of a separate

question of the best agency for the construction of an extension north west
from Dindigul is of influence with this Government in causing it to
desire to defer the consideration of the Palgat Dindigul question
for the present.

6. - I am desired to add that in view of the heavy incidence on
the State of the Madras R. Co. guarantee and its benefit to the shareholders,
also of the certainty of important additions to their system enhancing the
price which ten years hence will have to be paid for their property;
in view also of the high construction estimates habitually put forward by
that Company, and the comparative difficulty of controlling either the cost
of their works or their revenue expenditure or their freight rates.

this Government are not disposed to accord to them undue sympathy
for the ^{invasion of their territory} ~~extension of their territory~~ of their water gauge rail. It is not
so much, therefore, considerations of what is due to the Madras R. Co.
~~as~~ ^{as} of what is necessary for the easement of the flow of trade
that have induced His Excellency the Governor in Council to desire
that the Palgat Dindigul question should be laid aside for the
moment.

7. I am therefore instructed to recommend that the South
India Ry. Co. offer, in so far as it concerns the Palgat-Dindigul
section, should be referred for the present, but 'without prejudice',
as it may, perhaps, be thought fit to reopen the question hereafter.

Despatched on 7/8/97

Documents accompanying:-
Copy of letter from R. No 753
of 24/7/97

I have &
7/8/97