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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	193	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	28 July	1873 1966

Not to be folded or roughly handled

193
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th July 1873.*

No. 94. Read the following letter from J. D. GRANT, Esq., Assistant Engineer in charge of District Engineer's Office, Tinnevely, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Palamcottah, 7th June 1873, No. 39:—

I HAVE the honour to forward the correspondence marginally noted, regarding the present system of Public Works Officers being required to furnish Completion Certificates for petty works executed by the Revenue Authorities, and to request the orders of Government on the subject.

1 District Engineer's letter, No. 158, dated 31st May 1873.

1 President's reply, No. 222, dated 5th June 1873.

5 Bills.

2. The five bills enclosed and the letter of the Collector explain the necessity for some alteration in the existing rules.

3. The works to which these five bills refer are of such a nature that it is impossible to frame any but an approximate estimate of their cost, and after their execution it is extremely difficult to measure them.

4. An officer thus cannot certify to the work in the ordinary form, though he may feel satisfied that the amount charged has been really spent.

5. Under these circumstances, I have the honour to request that the change proposed in the two letters enclosed may be considered, and, if approved, sanctioned.

From J. W. RUNDALL, Esq., District Engineer, Tinnevely, to R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, dated Palamcottah, 31st May 1873, No. 158.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for inspection, five bills which have been sent to Mr. Grant, Assistant Engineer, with a request that he will give Completion Certificates for the works to which they appertain.

1. Improving village site of Kalacud.
2. Do. do. of Nangunery.
3. Do. do. of Tirukarangudi.
4. Planting avenues on Ediangudi and Vizupathi roads.
5. Do. do. on road No. 19 and on road leading to Vallam.

2. I think some alteration of present rules is necessary to prevent our being called upon to grant Completion Certificates for such works.

3. In the first place there is no estimate, and, therefore, no standard for comparing what was done with what was proposed, and in only a few instances, such as the construction of culvert, is it possible to make any measurement.

4. I think, therefore, that the Government should be asked to grant authority to the Controller to pass similar expenditure on certificates from the Revenue Officer of the division in which the village is situated, and under the orders of whom the work will, as a general rule, have been carried out.

5. Similarly with regard to avenues, there is no possible means of checking the work, and, in my opinion, the Tahsildar or other officer, under whose immediate supervision the work was carried out, should certify, not as in the present instance, that the avenues have been fully executed and of the best materials and workmanship, but that the coolies were actually employed and their pay disbursed by him.

6. I was unwilling to address Government without being favoured with your opinion on this matter; should you coincide with me, please return the five enclosed bills, when I will address Government and request their orders on the subject.

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From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., President, Local Fund Boards, to J. W. RUNDALL, Esq., District Engineer, Tinnevely, dated Tinnevely, 5th June 1873, No. 222.

In reply to your letter* No. 158, dated 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I quite agree with you as to the difficulty of granting Completion Certificates in the form prescribed

* Enclosures returned.

for works which no one but a resident of the village can fully appreciate: widening streets, filling up holes, removing nuisances, levelling ruined walls, etc., etc., are works that make but little show afterwards, though they are of so much consequence to the village that the people frequently treat the 50 or 100 Rupees of Local Fund money as a grant-in-aid, and spend their private or common funds most liberally in effecting improvements. I enclose an extract on this subject from my annual report for last year on the Shermadevi Circle and shall be glad to see such a modification of the present rule as may secure a sufficient check on the money being fairly laid out. Local Fund Boards usually make grants of 50 Rupees only for the sanitation and improvement of villages for the express purpose of avoiding the difficulty that you represent.

Extract from a Report from the Collector and President of the Tinnevely Local Fund Board, Shermadevi Circle, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 14th June 1873, No. 303.

The improvement of villages consists of widening and opening out streets, filling-in holes, levelling decayed walls and mounds, building drains and small bridges, removing nuisances, repairing and fencing in wells, etc., etc., and in many of the larger towns, the improvements are already remarkable. The people take great interest in these improvements also, and come forward to help both with money and labour, so that for a grant of 50 or 100 Rupees from Local Funds work worth hundreds of rupees is sometimes executed. Here, however, the system of check again steps in to thwart our efforts, the rules require a Completion Certificate from a Department Public Works Officer for all work above 50 Rupees in value, and as there is often no estimate, or the provisions of the estimate have been departed from, the Department Public Works Officers, though acting with the best intentions, have scruples in granting certificates.

It seems somewhat strange that Revenue Officers, who can be trusted with the administration of a province with a revenue of 40 lacs of rupees, and who can raise or lower that revenue at will to the extent of some lacs, by granting or withholding remission, should not be trusted to spend 100 rupees on a popular work without the check of officers of another department, who are bound down by such forms and rules that they cannot officially recognize an improvement unless executed in a particular manner.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,

President.

No. 95.

ORDER THEREON, 5th July 1873, No. 1,740.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 9.

Public Works G. O., No. 185, dated 25th June 1873.

It has already been provided in G. O., No. 567, of 4th June, that Completion Certificates need not be supplied by Public Works Officers for works performed by other agency to an amount of less than Rupees 500, and it is now further ordered that Completion Certificates for works of the nature alluded to in the above

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correspondence, viz., clearing village sites and planting avenues, may be furnished by the officer in Revenue charge of the sub-division of the Local Fund Circle concerned, without limit as to cost.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

True Copy

G. W. Walker Col R.E.

See to file with

To District Engineers.
To the Executive Engineer, Wynad.
To Inspecting Engineers.
To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Return Sept

No. 193

Received

C. H. B. R.

AD

28/7/73

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

4th June 73 No 19-20

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Gobt. of 1873 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

DISTRICT ENGINEERS,

do. do.

Dated July 5th.

Recd. July 14th

Encl.

G. O., 5th July 1873, No. 1,740

JULY.

Nos. 94-95

Completion Certificates.—Passing orders on letter from the Assistant Engineer in charge of the Tinnevely District Engineer's Office requesting a modification of the rules in regard to the grant of certificates.

With order

No 193-28 July/73