

(1) Number of Pages.....4.

(2) Date of repair.....22.12.1961

(3) Initials of the Referencer.....Mee

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS***REVENUE***DEPARTMENT**

G.O. No.

39

B.P. No.

~~Press~~

Mis.

Dated

P. 3. 1973

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 526. Read the following letter from the District Engineer, Madura, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 5th February 1873, No. 4,750:—

In reference to G. O., 24th January 1873, No. 243, on the subject of the further work to be executed to Tiroomal Naick's Palace at Madura, I have the honour to point out that from the wording of that Government Order it would appear that a most strange misapprehension exists as to the present actual state of the palace and its requirements.

2. I will premise by saying that His Excellency Lord Napier, in his Minute that accompanied G. O., 11th January 1872, No. 69, gave his opinion that the Civil and Sessions Court could not continue to sit with convenience under the great dome E, while the works are being prosecuted in its immediate neighbourhood, and therefore that the two rooms, G G, behind the Court House, which are destined eventually for the Collector, will be required meanwhile for the Court.

3. In the Government Order under reference it is now stated that the Government attach much importance to the Judge's immediately occupying these quarters (*i. e.*, the only completed portion of the Collector's future Cutcherry), "in order that the Collector may be thereby enabled to vacate his present office!"

4. Mr. McQuhae, the Acting Collector, points out to me, on the other hand, that so long as he is held responsible to Government for the safe custody of the treasure and stamps he cannot think of moving out of his present Cutcherry until suitable and adequate accommodation is provided for him in the palace.

5. I take leave further to point out that if the ruling of the Government Order under notice is to hold good, some few years must elapse before the Collector can move into the palace, as for a building of such magnitude as the palace the annual allotment of Rupees 10,000 is but a flea bite in the cost of its restoration.

6. The works to be executed in the palace are of a four-fold nature, namely—

- (a.) Security, *i. e.*, tying up those portions of the building that are more or less in a perilous position;
- (b.) Restoration, *i. e.*, re-building fallen domes and arcades and restoring the building generally;
- (c.) Appropriation, *i. e.*, the construction of such additional work as may be necessitated for the proper occupation of the building; and,
- (d.) Decoration.

Of the above, *a* and *b* will each require at least one year's allotment of Rupees 10,000, while the appropriation, *c*, for the Collector's Cutcherry alone will require a further sum of Rupees 10,000, so that unless some arrangement be made to advance the money required for *c*, to be recouped hereafter by the sale of the present Collector's Cutcherry, there is not the slightest prospect of the Collector's moving into the palace for three years at least from this date.

7. With a view of carrying out the instructions of Government, I will now prepare and submit shortly a separate estimate for restoring those portions of the palace which are not in need of being tied up; and in order that as little as possible of the allotment for the current year may lapse, I have issued the necessary instructions to the Range Officer to proceed with these important services, and I trust that, under the circumstances, the Government will approve of this step.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st February 1873.*

8. I take the opportunity to report that the temporary transfer of the Civil and Sessions Court from its present locality in the Circular Hall E to the "Collector's private room C," as recommended in Lord Napier's Minute, will *de facto* be attended with no advantages commensurate with the inconveniences which it will entail, in separating the Judge from his clerks, while the nature of the work in the neighbourhood is not such as to distract the Court, as the work is for the most part plastering, and the workmen can easily be screened off with bamboo mats. The work will, in fact, be far less of an inconvenience than the restoration of the wagon vault, of which work no complaint was made by the Judge at the time. It is to be borne in mind also that as the records of the Court are now kept in the space marked "G.G. Records Registration Assistant," and that as the dome of this building is in an unsafe condition, the records will have to be shifted to enable the dome to be secured and restored. A temporary record room can be constructed at a trifling cost on the west side of "F, Judge's Clerks," and Mr. Hutchins, the Civil and Sessions Judge, has informed me that he approves of this arrangement.

9. As, however, the Government Architect has notified to me that he will shortly visit Madura, I shall defer, until his arrival, the submission of the estimate required for this purpose and for the services alluded to in the Government Order under notice.

No. 527. ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1873, No. 591.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 32.

THAT the Government has not realized, as the District Engineer points out in this letter, the actual amount of

accommodation available for public offices in Tiroomal Naick's Palace at Madura, is solely attributable to the desultory manner in which their intentions have been worked out and plans and estimates laid before them, to put a stop to which state of affairs their late orders have been designed.

2. Their present intentions are now summed up in instructions to the Government Architect to submit at once after consultation with the Judge and Collector, a proposal for accommodating both those officers in the palace with the least possible delay, so that the present Collector's Catcherry may be disposed of and the proceeds utilized for further operations, and he will supply the necessary plans and estimates for carrying out that proposal.

3. The District Engineer's share in the work will be limited to the supervision of all the details of its execution.

(True Extract.)

Thacker Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Architect to Government.
,, District Engineer, Madura.
,, Judicial Department.
,, Revenue do. ✓

Exd. S. T. Austin.

200 Col.

W. 656.

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CONSULTING ARCHITECT

TO GOVERNMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated Februray 21st.

Recd. March 7th

Encl.

G. O., 21st February 1873, No. 591.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 526-527

13 Feb. Order by the Rev. Mr. 11/10/73

Tiroomal Naick's Palace, Madura.—
Passing orders on letter from the District
Engineer, Madura, reporting on the sub-
ject of further work to be executed to
Tiroomal Naick's Palace.

W. 39.
Comm. to the
Board of Revenue

8th March