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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<u>2503.</u>	~~Press~~
~~B.P. No.~~		Mis.
Dated	<u>29. 11. 1878-196</u>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th November 1875.*

No. 275. Read the following letter from R. SMITH, Esq., Officiating Superintending Engineer, Nellore, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Officiating Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Nellore, 10th July 1875, No. 38:—

I HAVE the honor to submit, for sanction, a revised estimate, amounting to Rupees 29,650, for the first-class Taluq Cutcherry at Kanigherry, being Rupees 9,390 in excess of the sum sanctioned for that structure in G.O., No. 2,539, dated 17th October 1873.

2. From the accompanying comparative statement it will be seen that the difference between the original and revised estimates is owing to the modifications introduced in accordance with the revised

* In G.O., No. 1,366, dated 22nd May 1874.
No. 795, of 23rd March 1874.

" 1,288, of 13th May "

" 3,488, of 11th Dec. "

" 1,014, of 20th April "

" 721, of 15th March 1875.

design approved of by Government* for buildings of this class, to the alterations directed in the orders marginally noted, to the additional door provided at the Collector's request, to facilitate communication

between the Sheristadar's apartment and the Cashier's room, and to the cost of working in that unpopular and sickly part of the district having been under-rated by me. I have also to explain that much more difficulty was experienced than anticipated in collecting and keeping up a supply of skilled labor, and that the available local labor proved to be of the most unsatisfactory kind.

3. The Range Officer had many obstacles to surmount, and under the peculiar circumstances I am satisfied that, with the exception of the rate for brick-work, the charges are not excessive. This masonry should not have cost more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ Annas per cubic foot, the working rate was 3 Annas 10 Pies per cubic foot. The Range Officer's explanation regarding this high rate is given in Appendix A.

4. From the subjoined abstract it will be observed that the modifications and additions referred to in paragraph 2 of this letter amount for Rupees 3,971 of the difference between the original estimate and the one now submitted for sanction.*

	Rs.
Verandahs...	1,690
Three iron gratings for doors of Treasury	135
Iron railing between Treasury and Cashier's room	550
Two doors...	108
Two ventilators	100
Cut-stone steps	310
Dentil cornice	23
Alterations in masonry	203
One finial	25
Two windows	72
Ryots' shed	365
Cook-house	150
Branch roads	260
Total...	3,971

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5. From the accompanying comparative statement it will be gathered that a portion of the excess not accounted for in the above abstract is due to provision having been made in the revised estimate for more substantial work than was originally contemplated, and to the cost of the necessary special superintendence having been charged to the Cutcherry estimate.

6. The preparation in the Range Office of the revised estimate for this Cutcherry occupied far too long, in fact a most unreasonable time, and I have to express my regret for having permitted an expenditure on it of Rupees 3,206 in excess of the grant for the year 1874-75. I did so to prevent the breaking up of the working party, and in the hope of receiving the papers necessary to enable me to revise the estimate before the close of that official year, but in this I was sorely disappointed. The state of the Range Officer's health had, no doubt, a deal to do with the delay, and unfortunately I could not spare a man to assist him. Under these circumstances, I trust the irregularity referred to will be excused, and that Government will be pleased to sanction a transfer of funds from the unexpended balances of the following buildings to adjust the expenditure of the past year:—

From	Rs.	To	Rs.
Constructing 2nd-class Taluq Cutcherry at Venpatagerry. Item No. 23 of Provincial Budget of 1874-75; and G.O., No. 3,044, of 26th October 1874	2,600	Constructing 1st-class Taluq Cutcherry at Kanigherry. Item No. 22 of Provincial Budget of 1874-75	2,600
Improving Taluq Cutcherry and constructing Subsidary Jail at Gudum. G.O., No. 1,949, of 20th July 1874	606	Do. do. do.	606
Total ...	3,206	Total ...	3,206

7. Annexed are the details regarding the past and proposed expenditure—

	Rs.
Amount of the original estimate sanctioned in G.O., No. 2,539, of 17th October 1873	20,260
Amount expended up to the end of last year	20,918
Allotment of the current year	
Expenditure of the current year up to date	
Sum required for expenditure in 1875-76	8,000

8. The return of the enclosures is solicited.

No. 273. Order in Council, 12th November 1875, No. 3,229.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 20.

The revised estimate for the Taluq Cutcherry at Kanigherry in the Nellore District amounts to Rs. 29,650, and exceeds by Rupees 9,390 the original estimate sanctioned in G.O., No. 2,539, dated the 17th October 1873.

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2. The gross excesses on the various items may be classified as follows:—

	Rs.
Those due to alterations or additions to the cutcherry and out-buildings sanctioned by Government subsequently to the commencement of the work	4,039
Rates too low or quantities of work insufficiently provided for in the original estimate	2,605
Omissions in the original estimate	3,594
Total ...	10,238

There were savings, however, which reduce the net excess to that stated above.

3. The chief causes of excess were the large charge for special superintendence and the very high rate paid for brick-work, a rate which the District Engineer admits was excessive. It must be regarded as unsatisfactory that the supervision which cost so much did not result in better and more economical management.

The excessive delay which has occurred in the submission of the revised estimate for this work is also to be reprehended. The Government have had to notice on several former occasions lapses of this nature in the Nellore district, and these as well as the frequency with which estimates for Civil Buildings are exceeded indicate that Mr. Smith must maintain a stricter and more continuous control over his subordinates.

4. The revised estimate is sanctioned, but no funds are available for allotment at present.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Major-General R.E.

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Nellore
" Revenue Department
" Controller of Public Works Accounts

Ed. E. C. Shunker

25 Extra Copies

November 1875 Depts

Nº 4547.

GOV. of HIST. & NAT.

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER.

OFFICE.

San Francisco, Cal.

Date Received 2nd

24-11-75

25-11-75

By Mr. [illegible]

NOVEMBER

Nº 275276

Mr. [illegible]

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