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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

778

Press
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Dated 17. 4. 1975 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 380. Read the following letter from T. MOSS, Esq., Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 18th January 1875, No. 9,069:—

THE Government being often unnecessarily troubled with references regarding compensation for land taken up for public works carried out by the Public Works Department, I have the honor to suggest the issue of orders which will prevent such references as that disposed of in G. O., No. 103, of the 13th instant.

2. Except for claims to compensation long due, which under the orders of Government in Proceedings, No. 66, of the 11th instant, will be paid by Collectors immediately on being satisfied of the correctness of the claims, there is no reason why those officers should not follow the ordinary course* by preparing bills and

*G. O., No. 2,808, of the 20th November 1873. sending them to District Engineers whose countersignature would secure audit by the Controller of Public Works Accounts, which audit would be sufficient authority for Collectors to disburse the amounts of compensation from treasuries.

3. At my suggestion all Collectors have already been instructed on this subject by the Accountant-General of Madras, and have been provided with the form in which bills for compensation for land should be prepared. The form provided contains all the particulars required to be entered in the register prescribed in G. O., No. 1,617, of the 20th June 1873, as will be seen by reference to the enclosed printed copy of my letter, No. 5,273, of the 14th November 1873, addressed to all District Engineers. It will be observed from the printed letter that District Engineers have the opportunity (1) of accepting proposed charges for compensation; (2) of preventing payment of proposed compensation in cases in which, owing to change of intention or of project, land to the extent originally applied for may not be required; (3) of arranging for grants or allotments, if not already provided in connection with sanctioned estimates, to bear the debits of the Civil Department on account of compensation payable by Collectors on the audit of the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

4. I beg, therefore, to suggest that the Board of Revenue be required to issue the following instructions to Collectors in respect to compensation for land taken up or to be taken up for public works *carried out, or to be carried out, by the Public Works Department*:—

I.—When land is taken up or intended to be taken up in future, the Collector concerned should submit a bill in the above-mentioned form to the Controller of Public Works Accounts through the District Engineer, and on its receipt back, by the Collector, audited, payment should be made by that officer from the treasury as soon as possible. Revenue Officers should not apply to Public Works Officers for funds to pay for compensation for land, nor should Public Works Officers pay or offer funds for the purpose.

II.—In cases in which land may have been taken up years ago and for which payment of compensation was deferred, under former arrangements, for want of funds, &c., payment may be made by Collectors as soon as they are satisfied of the correctness of the claims, bills in the form above-mentioned being submitted in

778
2

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th April 1875.*

the manner already described to the Controller of Public Works Accounts for audit on the day of payment or as soon after as possible.

5. As numerous old claims have been recently adjusted, cases of the kind referred to in clause II. above will probably be rare.

6. If the Government should approve of the suggestions contained in this letter, I beg that District Engineers may be furnished with copies of it and of the orders of Government on it, so that they may be reminded of the instructions already issued on the subject, and in order that they may have authority to decline to countersign bills for compensation for land for works which have not already been or may not be intended in future to be carried out by the agency of the Public Works Department. I am particularly anxious about the matter, as in some instances Collectors have sent and District Engineers have countersigned bills for compensation for land for works, &c., with which the Public Works Department had no concern.

No. 381.

ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1875, No. 1,042.

IRRIGATION, No. 41.
Account.

His Excellency the Governor in Council approves of the arrangements suggested by the Controller of Public Works Accounts in the foregoing letter,

but considers it necessary to observe, with reference to paragraph 4, clause II., that all bills for land compensation should be countersigned by the District Engineers, who must take care before transmitting them that the information as to situation in column 4 of the printed form of bill appended to Controller's Circular letter, No. 5,273, of the 14th November 1873, is sufficiently definite to allow of the full identification of the land, and their countersignature will be taken to imply that they have satisfied themselves that the land is accurately described, and that it has not before been paid for.

2. It appears also to be requisite that some precaution should be taken that, if the amount to be paid per acre is considerably in excess of the average rate provided for under compensation in the estimate, the circumstance should be brought to notice with a view to revision, if necessary, of the sanction for compensation. Consequently it will be needful that appended to every bill there should be a memorandum showing—

The area provided for in the sanctioned estimate.

„ amount of compensation.

„ rate per acre.

„ area already paid for.

„ „ in present bill.

Total area.

„ amount already disbursed.

„ amount of the present bill.

Total amount.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th April 1875.*

the Controller will then be able to judge whether the transactions need special notice.

(True Extract.)

C. Walker

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ Revenue Department.

To all District Engineers.

To the Consulting Architect.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

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No 1398
Revenue Department
Govt. of 1875 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CONTROLLER OF PUBLIC

WORKS ACCOUNTS.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 15th.

Issued

Recd. — a-17

Encl.

G. O., 15th April 1875. No. 1,042.

APRIL

Nos. 380-381

Lands taken up for Public Works.—
Suggestions of the Controller of Public
Works Accounts that the Revenue Board
be requested to issue certain instructions
to Collectors relative to — and carried out
by the Public Works Department in order
to prevent frequent references to Govern-
ment on the subject, approved with re-
marks.

Comm. to the
Board of Revenue
14 April 75

14th Board of Rev. Dec. 20 April