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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1961	Press
B.P. No.		Mis. ✓
Dated	19. 8. 1876	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1961

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

3rd August 1876. No. 196.

CEMETERIES.

No. 1. Read the following letter from A. P. HOWELL, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Ecclesiastical), to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, dated Simla, 19th July 1876, No. 260 :—

I am directed to acknowledge your letter, No. 1489, dated the 23rd May last, recommending that in all Civil Stations where there is no resident Executive Engineer, the Magistrate should be vested with a discretionary power to make such arrangements as he may think most suitable for digging graves, preparing coffins and the like.

2. In reply, I am to explain that the intention of paragraph 7 of Home Department Resolution, No. ³₉₃₋₁₀₉ dated the 14th March last, was to provide an ultimate authority in case of difficulty. In most stations all arrangements in connexion with funerals are made through an undertaker appointed by the Chaplain and Executive Engineer, and it was not intended to disturb such arrangements when they work well. Paragraph 7 thus enables the Chief Civil or Military Officer to make the best arrangement he can either through the ordinary channel of Chaplain and undertaker, or whatever officer of the Public Works Department may most suitably be told off for the work. But in both cases the final responsibility is with the Chief Civil or Military Officer as the case may be.

3. In the particular case of Arrah there is no objection to the Magistrate employing the District Road Engineer in making the necessary arrangements when occasion may arise, but the Government of India do not think it necessary to invest the Magistrate with the general discretion proposed, as such discretion is already given by the Resolution cited. Of course when a District Road Engineer, who is a Local Fund Officer, is employed, care will be taken to reimburse any expense that he may incur.

From H. J. REYNOLDS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to A. P. HOWELL, Esq., M.A., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Calcutta, 23rd May 1876, No. 1489.

With reference to your No. 96, dated the 14th March 1876, I am directed to request that this Government may be favored with the instructions of the Government of India upon a point which has arisen in connexion with the seventh paragraph of the Resolution in question.

2. That paragraph directs that the arrangements for digging graves, &c., shall rest in Military Stations on the Senior Military Officer; and in Civil Stations on the chief local Magistrate. These officers are authorized to direct the "local Public Works Officer" to supply what is necessary. It is then explained that by "local Public Works Officer" is meant the Executive Engineer of Military Works in Military Stations, and the Civil Executive Engineer in other stations.

3. The Magistrate of Shahabad has represented that in the station of Arrah, which is a Civil Station, there is no resident Executive Engineer. The station is under the charge of the Executive Engineer of Dinapore, who is

4. It appeared to the Magistrate that, in case of a grave or coffin being required, it would be impossible to refer to Dinapore, even if it were certain that the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, would be found there; and that the arrangements could not conveniently or decently be made by the Hindoo Sub-Overseer. The Magistrate, therefore, proposes to entrust the duties mentioned in paragraph 7 of the Resolution to the District Engineer, who has hitherto been in the habit of performing them.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that this arrangement, as it is not in strict conformity with the wording of the Resolution, should not be carried out without the approval of the Government of India. But, under the circumstances of the case, the plan proposed by the Magistrate appears the most convenient to be adopted, and I am therefore to recommend that it should be sanctioned in the case of Arrah, and that at all Civil Stations at which there is no resident Executive Engineer, the Magistrate should be vested with a discretion to make such arrangements as he may think most suitable for the conduct of the duties mentioned in the seventh paragraph of the Resolution.

No. 4—261.

(Signed) T. J. C. PLOWDEN,

Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 2.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department. ✓
 „ the Public Works Department.
 „ the Military Department.
 „ the Venerable the Archdeacon, Madras.
 „ all Collectors.

Exd. J. Wright.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

7 Ex. Old Board of Rev. & Sunday
Office. 27

N. 3363

Revenue Dept.
Govt. of 1876 Madras.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

To
THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated August, 3rd.

Issued — 14

Recd. 17 Aug 1876

G.O., 3rd August 1876, No. 196.

AUGUST.
Nos. 1-2.

Dis. 12/11

Cemeteries.—Decision of the Government of India regarding the officer on whom should devolve the duty of arranging for digging graves, preparing coffins, &c., in Civil Stations, communicated to all Departments of the Secretariat and the Venerable the Archdeacon. No 1961

Communicated to the P. of the

19 August 1876

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS