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# Revenue (1899) Department.

## MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 164

DATED 10 — 1 — 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comm.g. to the Bd of Rev: G.o. P.W.D. Considering Municipalities would do well to supply themselves with fire-engines if sufficient water-supply is present to enable the engine to be worked; stating that the engine should be in charge of the Police & inspected once a year by the local P.W. Dept. officers or the Dist. Board Engineer if there is no Municipal Engineer; & issuing instructions for the observance of certain precautions with regard to the protection of public buildings from fire.

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GC 3645/1899 Revenue (1899) Dept

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

# Government {1898} of Madras.

## PUBLIC WORKS.

Current No. 75

Recd. } 5th Jan: } 1898
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**G.O., No. 3163 W., 9th December 1898.**

**DECEMBER.**

G.C. Circ. no. 1648 10th Jan 99 communicated to the Board of Revenue

11th 10.1.99

4 To Members of Govt (BR)
12 copy to each other Heads of Dept to under Rep.

**Protection of Public Buildings from Fire**

Considering that municipalities would do wisely to supply themselves with fire-engines, if sufficient water-supply is present to enable the engine to be worked; stating that the engine should be in charge of the Police and inspected once a year by the local Public Works Department officers, or the District Board Engineer if there is no Municipal Engineer; and issuing instructions for the observance of certain precautions with regard to the —.

7.1.99

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

**Buildings and Roads.**
**Civil Works.**

READ—the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 1316 M., dated 21st July 1898.

ORDER—No. 3163 W., dated 9th December 1898.

In connection with certain proposals for the protection of public buildings from fire, it was considered (*vide* G.O., No. 1810 W., dated 3rd July 1897), that the first thing to be done would be to supply a fire-engine to be kept in a central position at each station containing important public buildings. With this object, inquiries were ordered to be made as to what municipalities had fire-engines, or the means to buy them. In the first case, reports were called for as to the steps taken to keep the engines in proper order and to ensure that some body of men (Police or others) knew how to work them. In the second case, information was asked for as to the available water-supply, without which a fire-engine would be useless.

2. The replies from Municipal Councils in response to the above inquiries have been transferred to this department with G.O., in the Local and Municipal Department, Mis. No. 1316 M., dated 21st July 1898, and are tabulated in the statements appended to these Proceedings.

3. Statement I gives particulars of municipalities that *have* fire-engines; statements II, III and IV exhibit those that are not in a position to, or do not propose to procure fire-engines for the reasons given. These statements also show the number of public buildings in each municipality.

4. From these statements, it will be seen that out of 58 municipalities 13 have one or more fire-engines in charge of their own servants or of the Police; that the municipality of Calicut has allotted funds for purchasing an engine; that 19 are, either on account of inadequate water-supply and want of funds or other cause, not in a position to buy fire-engines; that 16 cannot buy fire-engines on account of want of funds alone; and that, in the case of the 9 remaining municipalities, inadequate water-supply is the reason alleged for fire-engines not being obtained.

5. This question resolves itself into two:

(1) Whether municipalities should be advised to supply themselves with fire engines for general purposes.

(2) Whether it is necessary for Government to take any special precautions with regard to public buildings in municipalities and other towns.

6. With regard to the first, His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that municipalities would do wisely to supply themselves with fire-engines if sufficient water-supply is present to enable the engine to be worked. The engine should be in charge of the Police and kept at the police station, provision being made by the municipality for housing it and keeping it clean, and the constables should be drilled once a month in its use. It should be inspected once a year by the local Public Works Department officers, or the District Board Engineer if there is no Municipal Engineer, and a report recorded of its condition.



7. In regard to the second question, it is observed that public buildings are, as a rule, of such a very uninflammable nature, that it is considered quite unnecessary to supply them with fire-engines or hose other than those that may happen to be in possession of the local municipality. The following precautions should, however, be taken:—

(1) The rules published in G.O., No. 967 W., dated 17th March 1896, should be printed in English and vernacular and pasted up in several places in every public building, and the attention of all occupants of the building should be called to them.

(2) Galvanized iron buckets, numbering from a dozen downwards, according to the size of the building should be kept in an easily accessible place in every building for use during fire.

(3) In future, record-rooms should have nothing inflammable in their construction, *i.e.*, roof trusses and framing and the record racks should be of iron and the doors and windows should be iron-barred, with wooden shutters, if necessary, opening outwards.

(True Extract.)

A. Russell.

Under Secretary to Government.

To Superintending Engineers.
" the Consulting Architect to Government.
" the Superintendent of Works, Lighthouse Division.
" the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" the Examiner, Railway Accounts.
" the Local and Municipal Department.
" the Revenue Department.
" the Judicial Department.
" the Political Department.
" the Educational Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Ecclesiastical Department.
" the Marine Department.
" the Public Department, with copy of note by the Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss.

20 copies

Exd. Shaik Karim.

*Accompaniment to G.O., No. 3163 W., dated 9th December 1898.*

I.

STATEMENT I—showing the Municipalities that have fire-engines and the measures adopted to work them.

| Municipalities. | Number, cost and description of fire-engines in use. | By whom worked. | Remarks by Chairmen. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vizagapatam .. | One engine, not in working order; steps taken to repair it. | None trained to work the engine; Council unable to entertain special staff. | Hydrants to be provided in new water works. |
| Cocanada .. | One engine, price Rs. 1,261-9-2. | Engineer, Port Conservancy Department, and the Municipal maistri. | .... |
| Masulipatam .. | One engine .. | Municipal overseer .. .. | Water-supply good everywhere. |
| Cuddapah .. | One engine of a very old type. | Waterworks overseer .. .. | Another engine considered necessary; funds not available. |
| Bellary .. | Two small engines, Rs. 500 each. | A lascar. Municipal peons to be trained. The Council desire that the Police should also be trained. | One engine kept at the Municipal office, the other at the Police station. |
| Coimbatore .. | Two engines cost Rs. 1,279. | Municipal employés .. .. | One engine at Municipal office, the other to be removed from taluk office to the Police head-quarter office. |
| Salem .. | One engine .. | Municipal overseer .. .. | General scarcity of water in dry season. |
| Calicut .. | A provision of Rs. 1,500 made for the purchase of an engine. | .... | Water-supply adequate. |
| Cochin .. | Two engines; 1 manual of 16 men power, 20 years old; and the other bought in 1894 for Rs. 962. | A Municipal carpenter and fitter keeps them in order. | Engines at the Municipal office. Supply of water abundant everywhere. |
| Tellicherry .. | One engine .. | Municipal overseer .. .. | Water-supply—Wells and a tank. |
| Mangalore .. | Three engines .. | Two in charge of the Municipal Sanitary staff and 1 in charge of the Town Police. | Besides these the Basel Mission have 3 or 4 at their several establishments. |
| Tanjore .. | One engine .. | Steps taken to put it in charge of the Police. | .... |
| Trichinopoly .. | Do. .. | The Police .. .. .. | .... |
| Tuticorin .. | One small engine .. | Public Works maistri with coolies engaged for the time. | Water-supply defective in the town. The engine is useful where water-supply is available near. |

II.

STATEMENT II—showing the Municipalities which, for want of funds and deficiency of water-supply or other cause detailed in column 3, are not in a position to procure fire-engines.

| Municipalities. | Number of Public buildings therein. | Remarks by the local authorities (the Chairmen). | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bimlipatam .. .. | 10 | .... | |
| Berhampore .. .. | 16 | .... | |
| Anakapalle .. .. | 2 | .... | |
| Ellore .. .. | 11 | Collector's remarks.—"A fire-engine would be a boon to the town." "The Chairman's apprehension about the scantiness of water-supply during the summer months is only partly well founded." | |
| Nellore .. .. | 26 | .... | |
| Guntúr .. .. | 8 | .... | |
| Anantapur .. .. | 16 | .... | |
| Adóni .. .. | 6 | No fire-engine necessary as there are 30 hydrants in the town, which are specially intended to guard against accidents by fire. All the buildings in the town have mud roofs; and the Sanitary Engineer considers a fire-engine not necessary for the town. | |
| Walajapet .. .. | 1 | .... | |
| Gudiyáttam .. .. | 5 | .... | |
| Vániyambádi .. .. | 6 | Water-supply ample; funds available; but the Council see no necessity for a fire-engine. | |
| Karúr .. .. | 6 | .... | |
| Coonoor .. .. | 8 | The Council has no means to buy an engine; and no special measures are considered necessary for protecting buildings from fire in the town. | |
| Cannanore .. .. | 13 | Water-supply ample; but Council has no funds and there are 3 fire-engines belonging to others in the town. | |
| Conjeeveram .. .. | 5 | No fire-engine necessary as the town has fountains and hydrants. | |
| Tiruvannámalai .. | 3 | .... | |
| Cuddalore .. .. | 13 | .... | |
| Palni .. .. | 2 | .... | |
| Srívilliputtúr .. .. | 2 | .... | |

## III.

STATEMENT III—showing the Municipalities which on account of want of funds *alone* are not in a position to procure fire-engines.

| Municipalities. | Number of public buildings therein. | Remarks by local authorities (the Chairmen). | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chicacole .. .. | 10 | .... | |
| Rajahmundry .. | 18 | .... | |
| Ongole .. .. | 9 | .... | |
| Kurnool .. .. | 16 | Water-supply good. | |
| Tirupati .. .. | 7 | Water-supply sufficient. | |
| Tiruppattúr .. .. | 15 | Do. | |
| Ootacamund .. .. | 106 | Do. | |
| Palghat .. .. | 7 | Supply of water reasonably good; the Council propose to buy a fire-engine when funds are available. | Government house and Army Head-Quarters have, it is understood, been already provided with fire-engines. |
| Negapatam .. .. | 13 | .... | |
| Máyavaram .. .. | 3 | .... | |
| Chidambaram .. .. | 2 | .... | |
| Chingleput .. .. | 14 | .... | |
| Mannárgudi .. .. | 8 | .... | |
| Periyakulam .. .. | 4 | 59 per cent. of the houses thatched; fire of frequent occurrence; water-supply sufficient to work a fire-engine. | |
| Dindigul .. .. | 7 | .... | |
| Palamcottah .. .. | 11 | .... | |

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## IV.

STATEMENT IV—showing the Municipalities which on account of deficient water-supply *alone* are not in a position to procure fire-engines.

| Municipalities. | Number of public buildings therein. | Remarks by the local authorities (the Chairmen). | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Parlákimedi .. .. | 5 | .... | |
| Vizianagram .. .. | 8 | .... | |
| Bezwada .. .. | 20 | Purchase of an engine not considered advisable until the water-supply scheme is introduced. | |
| Erode .. .. | 11 | .... | |
| Vellore .. .. | 19 | .... | |
| Kumbakónam .. .. | 14 | The Council will purchase an engine on the completion of the water-supply scheme. The Collector remarks that the town as it is has a copious supply of water to work a fire-engine. | |
| Srírangam .. .. | 2 | Collector's remarks.—"The question (of purchasing an engine) can be considered when the water-works scheme for this town is finally settled." | |
| Madura .. .. | 25 | Water-supply at present cost is not available at nights; Council not prepared to expend money on improving water-supply in order to buy fire-engines. The Collector disagrees and considers that such a large town should have fire-engines. | |
| Tinnevelly .. .. | 9 | Purchase of an engine to be considered after completion of the water-supply scheme. | |

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