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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	4982	Press. / Mis.
Dated	29. 8. 1877	~~197~~ .

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Archives 1—10,006—19-4-79.

4982/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

11th August 1877, No. 572 W.

General Account.

Read the following paper:—

No. 111. From Major J. BEATTY, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, Godavery District, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp, Dowlaishweram, 21st May 1877, No. 532.

In continuation of my letter No. 479 of 17th May 1877, and with reference to paragraph 7, I send copy of my letter No. 3,508 of 7th March 1877 on the subject of difficulties in dealing with compensation bills.

No. 111-A. From Major J. BEATTY, R.E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, Godavery District, to the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 7th March 1877, No. 3,508.

At the suggestion of the Examiner of Public Works Accounts I have the honor to address you on the subject of a difficulty that has arisen in disposing of some of the bills submitted to this department by the Collector on account of compensation for land.

2. As you are aware it is a standing rule of the department which has been generally followed, where necessary, for some years past, that every estimate should include provision for the payment of compensation to the owners of land occupied for that work, and the Examiner of Public Works Accounts has pointed out to me that his duty in connection with bills for compensation for land is to see with regard to each bill whether the charge is provided for by a sanctioned estimate; if it is so provided for, he can pass the bill; if it is not, he cannot. And the difficulty that has arisen is simply this, that some of the charges of this character now submitted by the Collector are not provided for by any sanctioned estimate.

3. In the estimates of works in progress or lately completed such provision is nearly always found, and then the method of dealing with the bills is tolerably clear.* There are, however, three classes of works in which difficulty occurs:—

* But see paragraph 8.

I.—There is the case of works already finished, but concerning which the date of construction is known, or can readily be ascertained from existing records.

II.—Bills come up for works, the dates of construction of which are not known. They may have been constructed only six or eight years since, or it may be they are fifteen or twenty years old, and I believe that there is some limit* to the time within which such claims are allowable.

* Or it should be fixed.

III.—Cases may occur of bills being submitted through this department for compensation for lands occupied by works which have been constructed by other departments. For instance, some time since the Salt Department constructed a channel, this department has never had anything to do with the work, and has no information whether there ever was an estimate, whether that estimate contained provision for compensation, or whether the accounts of the work have been closed; in fact, nothing whatever is known about it. Of course the construction of this channel by another department and without an estimate as seems probable was altogether irregular and improper.

4. Another matter regarding these bills for payments of compensation in connection with works not in progress and for which there are consequently no accounts now open, is that the bills are often for very small plots of land, insignificant fractions of the whole area occupied; for instance, the bill now in my hands on account of the channel constructed by the Salt Department is for twenty-three cents only, and I have no means of knowing whether any or how many more bills are coming in for that channel.

5. My proposal is therefore that every bill should show clearly on its face—(1) where* the work is situated; (2) by whom it was constructed, if possible the name of the officer and subordinates said to have been employed upon it; and (3) the date on which it is said to have been constructed; also (4) whether the Collector or other officer whose duty it may be has been able to satisfy himself that the date of construction given is the correct one; a certificate to this effect might be printed at foot of the bill above the Collector's signature. In the case of works completed more than five years since care should be taken that the bill shows all the compensation likely to be required for that work; in short, that it is the final bill, and the Collector or other officer whose duty it may be should state that to the best of his judgment the bill shows all payments still due on that work.

* Taluq and principal village near it.

6. In all cases of bills received for works whether in progress or not, if it be found that there is no provision in a sanctioned estimate or that the amount of provision has been exhausted, I think the bills should be returned to the Revenue Department for a certificate that it is the final bill of that work.

7. Having obtained such a *final bill*, and having reason to believe that the claim is not barred by some statute applicable to such cases, the officers of this department will be in a position to submit the bill for the sanction of Government.

8. It seems to me that this is a very serious matter, and, if not carefully dealt with, may involve Government in a large expenditure, much of which may be quite unnecessary. Until recently it was most difficult to get any bills for compensation at all, and now that the settlement of compensation is receiving more attention bills are coming in for works which have not been in our accounts for years, some of which cannot even be recognized by name. I am not sure that it may not be necessary to depute a special officer to inquire into and deal with the question, as it is not at all clear on what principle the Revenue officials take up claims for compensation in the case of works not now in progress.

9. I have only further to remark that it would be a great convenience and cause much saving of labor to this office and the Examiners if in the case of *works now in progress in the estimates of which compensation is provided* the Collector would bill once for all for the whole of the compensation to be paid. In hopes that it may

4982/2

have some effect in this direction, I shall now request Range Officers to furnish the Collector with the lists of works of the description above mentioned.

No. 112. ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1877, No. 572 W.

IN the letters above recorded the District Engineer, Godavery, points out certain difficulties in the settlement of claims to compensation for lands taken up for public works, and makes the following proposals with a view to correcting existing procedure.

Each bill to show—

(1). Situation of the work.

(2). Name of the officer, &c., who constructed it.

(3). Date of construction.

(4). Which should be verified by the Collector.

And in the case of old works—

(5). A certificate from the Collector to the effect that the bill is a final one.

2. Some instructions have already been given in the orders quoted in the margin in respect to claims to compensation for land. Under these orders all claims should be accompanied by—

G.O., No. 1,617, dated 20th June 1873.
" " 1,042, " 15th April 1875.

(1). A land register duly identifying the land.

(2). A bill which has to be countersigned by the District Engineer.

(3). A memorandum showing rate per acre as compared with rate provided for in the work estimate.

3. Much of the information which the District Engineer considers desirable is already provided for in the form of register, the adoption of which was directed in G.O., No. 1,617, dated 20th June 1873. That form being properly filled up, there should be no difficulty in identifying the work* if it was constructed during the last twenty years. The name† of the officer who constructed the work is considered to be immaterial in most cases. As regards proposal (3) it is remarked that the Revenue Officers have no means of showing the date of construction of works. The register provides for the date of transfer of the land being shown; and, if there is no formal transfer, the date of occupation may be given instead; No. (4) is consequently unnecessary; No. (5) cannot, it is considered, be enforced. As the rules now stand, the bill is supposed to be the demand of the land-owner, and for each land-owner there must be a separate bill.

* *Vide* proposal (1).
† " " (2).

4. Much of the difficulty hitherto experienced in disposal of claims to compensation is considered to have arisen from—

1*st*.—The want of system in making applications. If these show the particulars necessary to complete identification, there should be no delay in the disposal of the charge when billed for.

2*nd*.—The delay on the part of the Revenue Officers in settling compensation and preparing registers and bills.

5. Were land applied for in the proper form and shown on land plans as is done for Railways and the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company there would be no confusion, and any undue delay could be specially brought to the Collector's notice.

6. This matter is remitted to the attention of all officers of the department, and District Engineers will be required to see that the rules are strictly adhered to for the future.

7. Claims to compensation for land taken up in connection with works carried out by officers of other departments should be disposed of by those officers in direct communication with the Collector.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To District Engineers.
To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Consulting Architect.
,, Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
,, Revenue Department.

Exd. A. Grubert.
20 Spare Copies

Revenue Department
No 3770

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

DISTRICT ENGINEERS,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated August 11th.

Issued

Recd. 21 August *Encl.*

G. O., 11th August 1877, No. 572 W.

Do Revo

AUGUST.

Nos. 111-112.

No 4982
Communicated to the Bd of Revenue with reference to Gt 2d July 1873 No 12 and 17 April 1875 No 778.

29 aug 77

Instructions for the settlement of claims to compensation for lands taken up for Public Works.

With Revo

(Copy to Revenue Dept 30-8-77)