M.R.O. 1—80,000—16-10-59.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 547 Press Mis.

66-67

Dated 30 March 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

547 cMJ

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd March 1869.

No. 66. Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department:—

Forwarding for information and guidance, copy of papers relating to Travelling allowances of Forest Officers. | (Here enter 15th October 1868, No. 12 F.)

No. 67. ORDER THEREON, 3rd March 1869, No. 547.

Forests, No. 2. | Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Ed. G. A. Turton.

Dept. of [illegible]

REVENUE.

To

Dated March, 68.

Recd.

G. O., 3rd March 1868, No. 547.

Read.

MARCH.

Nos. 66-67.

Travelling allowance of Forest Officers.

—Papers from the Government of India relating to this subject, recorded.

2

CIRCULAR No. 12 FOREST.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

REVENUE--FORESTS.

SIMLA, OCTOBER 15, 1868.

Travelling allowances of Forest Officers.

Read the following:—

No. 284F, dated 26th August, 1868.

RESOLUTION,—By the Government of India, P. W. Dept.

Read again the following papers:—

Financial Department Resolution No. 2896, dated 10th October 1864.
Forest Standing Order No. 1 of 1864.
From the Government of the Punjab, No. 5549, dated 31st March 1866.
To " " " 173 F, " 4th May "
From " " " 5540, " 11th January 1867.
To " " " 30 F, " 23rd " "
From Financial Department, " 1457, " 20th March "
Entries Nos. 9 and 10 of the Proceedings of the Government of Bengal for January 1868.

Read also:—

A letter from the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 3291, dated 5th June 1868, with enclosure, from the Conservator of Forests, No. 148, dated 8th May 1868.

An endorsement from the Financial Department, No. 707, dated 26th June 1868, transmitting letter from Deputy Accountant General, Punjab, No. 32, dated 17th June 1868.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Government of the Punjab forwards a letter from the Conservator of Forests, in which he draws attention to certain doubtful points in the Travelling Allowance Rules for Forest Officers, based on the opinion of the Accountant General communicated to him demi-officially, and the Local Government solicits the orders of the Government of India.

2. The Financial Department forwards, for opinion in this Department, a letter from the Deputy Accountant General, requesting orders with reference to the doubtful points, to enable him to dispose of certain bills at present under objection.

3. The Rules for travelling allowances of Forest Officers are embodied in Forest Standing Order No. 1, modified with regard to Rule VI by Standing Order No. 4.

Rule I. provides for travelling allowance being drawn as a daily allowance, to be reckoned for the whole period of absence from head-quarters under proper authority.

Rule II. lays down the rates to be drawn, *viz.*:—

	Rs.
Conservators	6 a day.
Deputy Conservators	5 "
Assistant "	4 "

Rule VI. lays down that the claims of Forest Officers, when proceeding on public duty by Steamer, Railway, or Dâk, will be dealt with

To The Secretary to Govt. of Madras
Madras Establishment

under the ordinary Civil Rules, that is to say, Conservators, Deputy Conservators, and Assistant Conservators will be entitled to—ship or steamer—actual passage money (if reasonable)—

Railway	3 annas a mile.
Dâk	8 „ „

It was further decided, in reply to a reference from the Punjab Government, that the rules do not fix a minimum length of journeys entitling Officers to travelling allowances, it being open to the Local Accountant General, when he thinks fit, to refer cases for the orders of the Local Government (Public Works Department No. 173F, dated 4th May 1866). It is recommended that this ruling, which was not at the time communicated to the Financial Department, be now confirmed. And on another reference from the Punjab, it was ruled in the Financial Department that the Conservator may draw the mileage of the journey by rail or dâk between his camp and his head-quarters, in addition to travelling allowance at the daily rate, for the period during which his camp is necessarily absent from head-quarters (Financial Department No. 1457, dated 20th March 1867).

4. The Deputy Accountant General of the Punjab now requests orders on the following points:—

(1).—Whether the travelling allowance bills of Forest Officers, including both daily and mileage allowances for different periods of the same journey should, in future, be passed by his Office.

(2).—Whether the number of days for which halting allowance is claimable should be unlimited as at present.

(3).—Whether the orders of the Government of India, in the Public Works Department No. 173F, dated 4th May 1866, with reference to short journeys, should be acted on in the Financial Department.

5. With reference to the first question, the Deputy Accountant General reads Rule VI in the light of the ordinary Civil Rules, according to which an Officer, while doing duty in the interior of his District, draws either mileage or daily allowance, whichever he elects first, on the understanding that he proceeds to a greater distance than 10 miles from his head-quarters.

6. A case illustrating this question has lately arisen in Bengal. The Assistant Conservator, Sikkim Division, travelled for 20 days. He submitted a bill for 18 days, at Rs. 4 a day, and mileage on 112 miles per dâk, which occupied him two days. The Accountant General, Bengal, retrenched the amount of mileage on 112 miles at 8 annas per mile, Rs. 56, and allowed him two days daily allowance instead, amounting to Rs. 8.

7. The Government of Bengal declined to refer the case to the Government of India, and upheld the retrenchment, because, according to the Civil Rules, mileage and daily allowance are inadmissible for the same journey.

8. In the Punjab, the Accountant General has hitherto admitted similar bills, but now objects to pass them without special sanction.

9. When the Travelling Allowance Rules for Forest Officers were framed, the intention was to re-imburse them for their actual travelling expenses as far as such is practicable.

10. In most cases Forest Officers have considerable distances to go over from their head-quarters to the forests, timber depôts, or other places where their work lies, also from one Forest District to another, and on their return to head-quarters. It would not further their work if they were to march leisurely over ground where they have no special duties to perform.

They are therefore expected to avail themselves of all existing facilities for rapid travelling, dâk, rail, boats and steamers, and where no such facilities exist, to make special arrangements for getting rapidly over the ground.

11. If complete maps and route books existed for the forests, simple mileage rates for all journeys above 20 miles might have been introduced. But in many, perhaps in most cases, the distances are not accurately determined, and to ask Local Governments to take measures for determining them would be to commence an immense work of doubtful utility, for the lines run over by Forest Officers necessarily vary at different times and on different occasions. In many cases it may be even difficult to say whether a day's journey in the forests has been above or below 20 miles.

12. It has, therefore, been fixed that for journeys by ship, steamer, railway, or dâk, certain rates shall be allowed, but it has nowhere been laid down that these rates are not admissible for portions only of a journey. In the case of the Conservator of Forests in the Punjab, it has even been ruled that he may draw the mileage of a journey by rail or dâk, in addition to the daily allowance, while the camp is necessarily absent from head-quarters; this ruling has been confirmed by the Financial Department, and under proper control, it may be made applicable to Forest Officers in all Provinces.

13. The second question raised by the Deputy Accountant General of the Punjab is answered by Rule I—"All travelling allowance will be drawn as a daily allowance, to be reckoned for the whole period of absence on duty from head-quarters under proper authority." This does not exclude the days on which the Forest Officer's camp is halting, and it would not be just to exclude such days, for the marching establishment must be kept up, the arrangements for sending up supplies to his camp must be maintained, and in most cases the Forest Officer is moving about in the Forest, or other places of work, while his camp is halting.

14. The third question, as to the minimum distance which should constitute an absence from head-quarters, was settled in this Department. The proposal of the Punjab Government to fix a minimum limit of short journeys was declined, and it was said that the Forest Department having special rules for travelling allowances, those of the Civil and Public Works Departments are inapplicable to it. As explained above, this ruling is now transmitted to the Financial Department for confirmation.

15. His Excellency in Council, in this Department, observes that the circumstances of Forest Officers' journeys are peculiar, and that on this account a certain latitude has been left to the Local Governments, aided by the Conservator, who may reasonably be expected to have an interest in seeing that no time is lost, and no avoidable expense is incurred by the Officers under his orders.

16. In the case of Forest Subordinates, the Conservator is justly allowed considerable latitude. Rule IV authorizes his passing *bonâ fide* travelling expenses, in lieu of the daily allowance which has been fixed by the rules at four-tenths of their pay.

17. In the case of Officers there would appear to be some difficulty in the acceptance of the term dâk travelling. From para. 5 of Dr. Stewart's letter of 8th May 1868, it may be inferred that he considers a journey beyond 20 miles in one day as entitling to 8 annas a mile in lieu of the daily allowance. In some instances this would not be in accordance with the rules which only recognize the *peculiar mode of travelling* as entitling to 8 annas a mile without reference to distance.

18. It is evident that, although there is no difficulty in deciding the specific questions raised by the Deputy Accountant General, some doubt

and uncertainty may still arise concerning the interpretation of some of the rules. For the present, however, the existing rules may be allowed to stand, although some time hence a revision may become necessary.

19. It appears expedient here to state, with regard to the fourth rule of the existing Travelling Allowance Rules, that, in the case of Forest Officers of and above the rank of Assistant Conservators who are entitled to actual passage money by ship or steamer, the deductions on account of table-money will be made under Financial Department Resolutions Nos. 1467, dated 23rd July 1866, and 2284, dated 24th April 1868. These orders prescribe the deduction of the full rate of table-money in the case of Officers whose pay exceeds Rs. 600 per mensem, and of the half rate in the case of all others, and they fix the full rate at Rs. 8 a day when the passage money includes, and at Rs. 4 a day when it does not include the charge for wine, beer, spirits, and soda-water. An Officer may, however, draw half of any daily allowance he may have been entitled to had he been travelling on duty by land for the period for which he is required to pay table-money.

Subordinates are entitled to a 2nd class passage, without any deduction on account of table-money.

ORDER.—Ordered, that, with the papers read,* the above Resolution be forwarded to the Financial Department for consideration and orders.

* To be returned.

No. 2660, dated 30th September, 1868.

RESOLUTION,—By the Government of India, Finl. Dept.

READ the undermentioned papers regarding the travelling allowance of the Officers of the Forest Department:—

Letter from the Officiating Deputy Accountant General, Punjab, No. 82, dated the 17th June 1868.
Endorsement to the Public Works Department, No. 707, dated the 26th June 1868.
Memorandum from " " " 344 F, " the 24th July 1868, and enclosures.
Office Memorandum to " " " 1872, " the 8th ultimo.
Resolution of the Government of India, in the Public Works Department, No. 284 F, dated the 26th ultimo.

ORDER.—Ordered, that the above-mentioned Resolution be communicated to the undermentioned Officers of the Civil Account Department, with the intimation that it is confirmed, and that intimation to the same effect be given to the Public Works Department.

Comptroller General of Accounts.

Accountants General in Bengal, the North Western Provinces, the Punjab, and British Burmah.

Deputy Accountants General in the Central Provinces, Hyderabad, and Mysore.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of these papers be forwarded, for information and guidance, to the Local Governments and Administrations noted in the margin.

Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal.
N. W. Provinces.
Punjab.
Oudh.
Central Provinces.
Coorg.
British Burmah.
Hyderabad.
Mysore.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, *Colonel, R. A.,*
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

A. Alexander, *C. E.,*
Offg. Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

REVENUE—FORESTS.

To

CIRCULAR No. 12 FOREST.

Dated SIMLA, *October* 15, 1868.

Received

Travelling allowances of Forest Officers.

Revenue 1868 Oct. 4

No. 3539

Circular

From

Govt of India.

P. W. Dept

Dated 15th Octr

Received 9th Novr 1868.

No. 1231.

Forwarding for information & guidance Copy of papers relating to travelling allowances of Forest Officers.

RECORDED.