

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2306

DATED 7th May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording P. P. Commission to all Collectors
& Conservators Resolution of the Govt. of India
reviewing the budget estimate of the Madras
Forest Dept. for 1897-98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
4218 4557	2642	Revenue	22-5-97				

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3417



See 7/5/97

From The Board of Revenue
Land Revenue
Forest Branch

Order Misc no. 2306 of 7th May 97.

Recorded

No. 103

11/5/97

Dated 12 March 1897

Received 26-4-97

Registered 27-4-97

Enclosures

Spare copies

note

SUBJECT.

The detailed allotments made by the Board have since been approved. The Resolution of the Govt. of India communicating to all Collos. and Conservators reviewing the budget estimate of the Madras Forest Dept. for 1897-98 is issuing.

11/5/97

11/5/97

awaiting reply from Govt. 5/5/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed April th.

Proceedings, Forest No. 103, 12th March 1897.

MARCH.

Communicating to the Conservators of Forests and to all Collectors, with remarks, Government Order communicating to the Board of Revenue, Financial Department, and the Accountant-General, with remarks, resolution of the Government of India reviewing the Budget Estimate of the Madras Forest Department for 1897-98; requesting the Conservators to revise the provisional allotment statement of Charges appended to Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 29, dated 20th January 1897, to re-submit it to the Board at an early date and to report by wire whether the reduction made by the Government of India in the Budget Estimate of Charges will affect the Receipts.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

Read—the following Government Order, Mis. No. 1296, Revenue, dated 8th March 1897:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No. 29, dated 20th January 1897:—

Read—the following paper from the Government of India:—

No. ¹⁹⁰⁻¹⁹²/₃₀₁₋₂ F.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture, dated Calcutta, the 18th February 1897.

FORESTS.

Read—the following Resolutions containing the orders of the Government of India on the Budget Estimate of the Forest Department in the Madras Presidency for 1896-97:—

Nos. 79 to 81 F., dated 5th February 1896.
No. 1391 A. (Finl.), dated 25th March 1896.

Read also—

Proceedings of the Government of Madras, No. 704 (Revenue), dated 9th December 1896, regarding the Budget Estimate for 1897-98.

RESOLUTION.

The Actuals of 1895-96, compared with the Estimates, were as follows:—

	Budget Estimate.	Revised Estimate.	Actuals.
Receipts	Rs. 18,70,000	Rs. 20,50,000	Rs. 21,10,568
Charges { A.—Conservancy and Works ..	..	..	6,78,977
{ B.—Establishments	..	..	7,66,629
Total ..	15,70,000	14,80,000	14,45,606
Surplus	3,00,000	5,70,000	6,64,962

2. The increase in the Receipts occurred principally under head II and was chiefly due to revenue obtained from trees on "darkhast" lands having been credited to "Forests," instead of to "Land Revenue" as has hitherto been the custom. There was a considerable decrease in revenue realized from departmental timber and fuel works. A slight increase occurred under heads III to V, notably in the Northern and Southern Circles.

Compared with the sanctioned estimate, there was a large decrease in the Charges, and this was mainly due to contraction of Government timber operations and to works budgeted for under heads VII and VIII not having been carried out owing to insufficiency of establishment. Rs. 54,837 were expended on forest-surveys executed by the Survey of India Department, and Rs. 41,600 on exchange compensation allowance.

The Surplus realised was nearly 3½ lakhs more than that originally estimated.

3. The Estimates for 1896-97 are:—

	Budget Estimate. RS.	Revised Estimate. RS.
Receipts	20,16,000	23,42,000
Charges { A.—Conservancy and Works ..	..	8,91,000
{ B.—Establishments	..	7,74,000
Total ...	16,70,000	16,65,000
Surplus	3,46,000	6,77,000

4. The increased Receipts are expected from timber and other forest produce removed by consumers or purchasers, more particularly under IIe (minor forest produce) in the Northern Circle in consequence of improved sales of the bark of *Cassia auriculata* (including an advance collection of Rs. 44,500. for 1897-98), and of the leasing of date trees on unreserved lands. Other causes for the anticipated increase under head II are the crediting to "Forests," instead of "Land Revenue," of the receipts derived from unreserved lands under the control of the Forest Department, a large demand for bamboos, and the better management of grazing arrangements accompanied by the throwing open of larger areas to grazing.

The revised Charges approximate to those of the original estimate, and include

Rs. 1,17,000 for surveys (of which Rs. 92,000* are on account of those undertaken by the Survey of India Department) and Rs. 37,400 for exchange compensation allowance. The Government of India are, however, of opinion, in view of the actuals of past years, that the estimate of Charges may be reduced by Rs. 1,15,000.

5. The figures of the Revised Estimate are accepted as follows, subject to such modifications as may hereafter be communicated by telegram:—

	RS.
Receipts	23,42,000
Charges	15,50,000
Surplus	7,92,000

6. The Budget Estimate proposed for 1897-98 is:—

	RS.
Receipts	23,73,000
Charges { A.—Conservancy and Works ..	10,28,000
{ B.—Establishments	7,98,000
Total ...	18,26,000
Surplus	5,47,000

7. The Receipts have been entered at Rs. 31,000 above the Revised Estimate for 1896-97 and Rs. 2,63,000 over the Actuals of 1895-96. The main reason for this increase is that larger realizations are expected from timber and fuel sold by Government agency. Increased sales of timber removed by purchasers and increased receipts from grazing are also expected, though the direct sales of firewood, particularly in the Southern Circle, show a falling off, apparently owing to an increase in departmental extraction. A considerable decrease is anticipated under minor forest produce, parti-

enarily in the Northern Circle, where the current leases for the bark of *Cassia auriculata* will expire and the abnormal returns lately obtained are not likely to recur. A more detailed explanation should have accompanied this statement, as it is not understood how the mere falling in of leases should cause a decrease in revenue of between Rs. 70,000 and Rs. 80,000. Rs. 5,17,000 are estimated from timber, Rs. 5,48,000 from fuel, Rs. 2,02,000 from bamboos, Rs. 9,84,000 from grass and other minor produce, and Rs. 19,000 from sandalwood.

8. The Charges under "A—Conservancy and Works" have also been increased as compared with those of 1895-96 and 1896-97, being Rs. 3,49,000 more than the former and Rs. 1,37,000 in excess of the latter. This increase is principally on account of an extension of departmental operations for the supply of timber and fuel, the purchase of machinery for sawing timber, the construction of important export roads, and the employment of two Survey of India parties in place of one as heretofore. Rs. 79,000 are provided for the supply of timber by departmental agency; Rs. 1,63,000 for the similar supply of firewood and charcoal; Rs. 1,03,000 on account of the removal of timber and other produce by private agency; Rupees 1,23,000 under "communications and buildings"; Rs. 68,000 in connection with the demarcation and settlement of the forests; Rs. 1,76,000 to meet the cost of surveys (including Rs. 1,54,000 for those by the Survey of India parties); Rs. 59,000 on account of sowing and planting; and Rs. 52,000 for fire-protection. Unfortunately the figures given in the explanatory statement attached to the Budget do not tally with those used by the Board as the basis for their proposals, so that it is impossible to ascertain the anticipated financial results of the expansion of departmental operations and contraction of private exploitation which are apparently contemplated. But the very large increase proposed under this head, against an anticipated increase in Revenue of Rs. 31,000 only, appears to be hardly justified.

9. The amount shown against "B—Establishments" is composed of the following items:—

	Rs.
Pay of Conservators	48,600
" Superior Forest-officers	2,59,200
" Forest Settlement-officers	30,000
Deputation and special allowances	15,000
Exchange compensation allowance	34,500
	<u>3,87,300</u>
Deduct probable savings	16,600
	<u>3,70,700</u>
Pay of Subordinate Forest establishments	1,64,748*
" Office establishments	98,208†
	<u>2,62,956</u>
Deduct probable savings	5,456
	<u>2,57,500</u>
Travelling allowances	6,28,200
Contingencies	1,26,000
	<u>43,800</u>
Total	<u>7,98,000</u>

* Includes Rs. 7,764 under "temporary." † Includes Rs. 24,780 under "temporary."

The provision for the salaries of Conservators, Superior officers, Forest Settlement-officers (5), and office establishments is within the sanctioned scale; while that for subordinate establishments falls short of the revised scale recently sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

10. The following figures afford a comparison between the Estimates for 1896-97 and 1897-98 and the Actuals of the preceding three years under "Travelling allowances" and "Contingencies":—

		Travelling allowances.	Contingencies.
		Rs.	Rs.
Actuals.	1893-94	1,15,294	37,541
	1894-95	1,16,433	36,313
	1895-96	1,22,202	40,868
	1896-97	1,22,400	43,300
Estimates	1897-98	1,26,000	43,800

11. The following is a comparison of the Actuals of 1895-96 with the Revised Estimate for 1896-97 and the Budget Estimate for 1897-98, as proposed by the Local Government, arranged under the main heads of Receipts and Charges:—

	Actuals, 1895-96.	Revised Estimate, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts.			
I.—Timber and other produce removed and sold on Government account	3,80,056	5,18,130	6,04,420
II to V.—Other revenue	17,30,512	18,23,870	17,68,580
Total ..	<u>21,10,568</u>	<u>23,42,000</u>	<u>23,73,000</u>
Charges.			
A. I.—Timber and other produce removed on Government account	1,82,223	2,04,155	2,66,230
A. II, III and IV.—Other revenue	91,412	1,01,970	1,07,040
A. V, VII and VIII.—Formation, protection and improvement of forests	3,65,794	5,21,405	5,78,310
A. VI and IX.—Live and dead stock, and miscellaneous charges	39,548	63,470	76,420
B.—Establishments	7,66,629	7,74,000	7,98,000
Total ..	<u>14,45,606</u>	<u>16,65,000</u>	<u>18,26,000</u>
Surplus	<u>6,64,962</u>	<u>6,77,000</u>	<u>5,47,000</u>

12. The Government of India consider that the proposed Charges should be reduced by Rs. 1,01,000; and the following figures are therefore provisionally sanctioned by the Government of India as the Budget Estimate for 1897-98:—

	Rs.
Receipts	23,73,000
Charges	17,25,000
Surplus	<u>6,48,000</u>

Order.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded, for information and guidance, to the Government of Madras; and for information to the Finance Department and the Comptroller and Auditor General.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) DENZIL IBBETSON,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Order.—Mis. No. 1296, Revenue, dated 8th March 1897.

The second of the papers read above will be communicated to the Financial Department, to the Board of Revenue and to the Accountant-General.

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____
 189

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO G. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
 B = Not to be copied.
 P = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy heading only

2. The provisional allotment of Charges made by the Board in the first paper read above must be modified with reference to the reductions since made by the Government of India in the figures passed by this Government, and the Board will now be requested to revise and re-issue the statements accordingly.

3. The reductions referred to in paragraph 12 are large and the Government fears that they will not only prejudice the initiation and progress of useful operations but will also seriously affect the receipts anticipated. The Board will accordingly be requested to report with the least possible delay whether it is necessary to make any alterations in the Budget Estimate of Receipts, and if so, to what extent and under what heads. The information is required for telegraphic communication to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
 Under Secretary to Government.

To the Financial Department.
 „ Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
 „ Accountant-General.

RESOLUTION—Forest No. 103, dated 12th March 1897.

Communicated to the Conservators of Forests and to all Collectors.

2. The reduction of Rs. 1,01,000 made by the Government of India in the Budget Estimate of Charges for 1897-98 will be distributed among the three circles as shown below:—

	Rs.
Northern Circle	29,000
Central „	33,000
Southern „	39,000
Total	1,01,000

The Conservators are requested to revise the provisional allotment statement of Charges appended to Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 29, dated 20th January 1897, and to resubmit it to the Board at an early date.

3. The following "ordinary" telegram will be despatched to the Conservators:—

"India sanctioned Budget Estimate Charges ensuing year at Rs. 17,25,000. Proportionate reduction your circle Rs. Will this Reduction affect Receipts? If so, by how much and under what heads? Please wire reply before 15th instant."

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Conservators of Forests (telegram and Proceedings in MS.).
 „ all Collectors, except of Madras.

Copy to the Accountant-General.

„ „ Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.