

Revenue (1899) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 359

Dated 6th June 1899

(Distillery Inspection - No. 2 of 1899)

[Despatch Abstract.]

Communicating to The Board of Revenue the sanction of the Secretary of State for India for the entertainment of an additional establishment required for working the distilleries and liquor depots & warehouses in the Madras Presidency

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
4571 974 R 107-15 4746 999 5000 999							

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3471.

(Read again G.O. 432 d/4.8.98.
 (Letter No. 433 d/4.8.98.
 G.O. No. 534 d/6.2.99.
 G.O. No. 145 d/11.3.99.
 also letter from the Govt.
 of India No. 2332 Ex. d/22.5.99
 (C.O. 3471) (11)

From

The Government of India,
 Mil. & Com. Dept.

Order Paper No. 354 d/6 June 1899.
 cum Jst 4.6.99.

Communicated to

the Board of Revenue.

No. 2332-Ex

Dated 22.5.99

Received 27.5.99

Registered 30.5.99

Enclosures 2.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of the
 despatch from the Secy. of State in-
 cluding the endorsement at an
 aggregate cost of Rs 1433 a month of the
 additional establishment proposed by
 the Govt. of Madras in connection with
 the scheme for the more efficient super-
 vision of distilleries.

The Board of Revenue (S.R.)
 Mil. Dept.
 4/3
 26.99
 3-6-99

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
mis	534	Re	6.2.97
Proc	175	Re	97
Proc	432 33	Re	9.8.98

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
~~C. no. 4526997~~			
~~4746497~~			

Revenue
No. 87.

India Office,
London, 27th April 1899.

To

His Excellency the Right Honourable
The Governor General of India in Council.

My Lord,

I have considered in Council Your Excellency's
letter No. 74, (Finance and Commerce), dated 16th March
1899, supporting a proposal of the Government of
Madras that certain appointments, at an aggregate
cost of Rs 1,433 a month, should be created in
view to the more efficient supervision of distilleries,
liquor depôts, and warehouses, in that Presidency.

2. I am glad to learn from your letter that
the appointment in 1896 of Mr. Bennett as
Abkari Deputy Commissioner has so far yielded
satisfactory results; and I sanction the additional
establishment now proposed for assisting him
in his work.

I have,
(S^d) George Hamilton.

(True copy)

Secretary,
Registrar,
Finance and Commerce Department

Schedule of Papers.

1. Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 433, dated 4th August 1898, and enclosures.
2. Letter to the Government of Madras, No. 3863 Ex., dated 1st September 1898.
3. Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 534 Misc., dated 6th February 1899.

Copy.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Finance and Commerce Department.

SALARIES, ESTABLISHMENTS, etc.

Excise.

FROM

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

TO

THE SECY. OF STATE FOR INDIA.

No. 74.

Dated Calcutta, the 16th March 1899.

Received

Proposed entertainment of additional establishments
required for working the new system of distillery
control in the Madras Presidency.

No. 74 of 1899.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

SALARIES, ESTABLISHMENTS, etc.

Excise.

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD GEORGE FRANCIS HAMILTON,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Calcutta, the 16th March 1899.

MY LORD,

WE have the honour to forward a copy of the correspondence with the Government of Madras, noted in the annexed schedule, regarding the entertainment of an additional establishment required for working the distilleries and liquor depôts and warehouses in the Madras Presidency.

2. In our Despatch of 18th August 1896, No. 233, we pointed out the difficulties that had arisen from the expert managers of the large Madras distilleries being subjected to the control of untrained Excise officials. A great step towards remedying this state of things was taken by the appointment of a specialist from England as Supervisor of distilleries under the title of Abkari Deputy Commissioner under Your Lordship's Despatch of 12th November 1896, No. 149 (Revenue). This officer is now imparting his knowledge and methods to the subordinate officers of the Department, and the result is that we shall shortly have in Madras a body of trained Assistant Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for local charge of distilleries, depôts and warehouses, the cost of the establishments at the latter being recoverable from the Warehouse-keepers. But the Abkari Deputy Commissioner can obviously not exercise constant and direct supervision over these officials throughout the Presidency; he must confine himself to the occasional inspections that were formerly carried out by the ordinary Deputy and Assistant Commissioners. The intermediate link of control has hitherto vested in the Inspector of the Salt and Abkari Circle in which a distillery, etc., is situated, that is, in an officer without special training in distillery work and with many other duties to attend to. The Madras Government's proposal is to create three special Distillery Inspectors, trained by the Abkari Deputy Commissioner, each of whom will under his orders check the work of the local distillery officers in the best possible way, i.e., by himself taking over charge of the distillery (without warning) two or three times a year, the Assistant Inspector ordinarily in charge being *pro tem.* sent out to check rail consignments of spirits.

3. The scheme is, in our opinion, an excellent one. Not only will it greatly improve the check on distillery operations and thus prevent loss of

revenue, but it will free the ordinary staff of Inspectors from what is to them the most difficult and uncongenial part of their present duties, and thus allow them to devote more attention to tree-tax and general preventive work.

4. The local charge of a distillery has hitherto ordinarily vested in a single Assistant Inspector. In their letter of 6th February 1899, No. 534, the Madras Government point out the desirability of supplementing those officers by Sub-Inspectors, 17 of whom (in all) will be entertained for this purpose. Here again we think that the Madras proposal is justified. The Assistant Inspectors cannot single-handed do all that is now required of them, and to give them the assistance proposed will produce greater promptitude in, and more efficient control of, distillery arrangements which will bear fruit in larger receipts in the shape of duty on issues.

5. The net extra cost of the whole scheme of new appointments proposed is Rs 1,433* a month including three permanent appointments of Inspectors on R350, R300 and R250 a month, with a local allowance of Rs 50 a month in each case. The cost of the scheme is small compared to the revenue† which the distilleries produce, and we strongly recommend it for Your Lordship's sanction.

	No. of proof gallons of country spirits passed out of distilleries.	Aggregate duty.
† 1894-95	926,095	34,78,127
1895-96	976,876	36,16,680
1896-97	976,454	36,38,147
1897-98	922,171 ‡	37,61,983

‡ Decrease due to famine.

We have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servants,

(Signed) CURZON OF KEDLESTON.

„ W. S. A. LOCKHART.

„ J. WESTLAND.

„ M. D. CHALMERS.

„ E. H. H. COLLEN.

„ A. C. TREVOR.

„ C. M. RIVAZ.

No 2332-5.
Government of India.
Finance and Commerce Department.
Simla, the 22nd May 1899.

To
The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Revenue Department.

Sir,
With reference to your letter No 534 Misc, dated 6th February 1899, I am directed to forward a copy of the marginally noted despatches to and from the Secretary of State for India from which it will be seen that His Lordship has sanctioned the establishment at an aggregate cost of Rs 1,433 a month of the additional establishment proposed by the Government of Madras in connection with the scheme for the more efficient supervision of distilleries, liquor depôts, and warehouses in the Madras Presidency.

I have the honour to be,
Siri,
Your most obedient servant,

L. Meyer
Deputy Secy. to the Govt. of India.
Copy

Despatch to the Secretary of State No 114, dated 16th March 1899.
Despatch from the Secretary of State No 87 Res Dated 27th April 1899.

Copy, with copy of the papers marginally
noted, forwarded to the Accountant
General, Madras.

Despatch to the Secy. of State No 711,
dated 16th March 1899 & Enclosures.
Despatch from the Secy. of State No 87
(Rev. dated 27th April 1899.

Government (1899) of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 359, 6th June 1899.

JUNE.

Distillery Establishment.

Communicating to the Board of Revenue the sanction of the Secretary of State for India
for the entertainment of an additional establishment required for working the distilleries and
liquor depots and warehouses in the Madras Presidency.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., No. 432, Revenue, dated 4th August 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Approving, with remarks, the proposals of the Board of Revenue for working the new scheme of distillery control from 1st October 1898, and addressing the Government of India for sanction to entertain certain additional establishments in connection therewith.

READ—again Letter No. 433, dated 4th August 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Requesting the Government of India to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State to the entertainment of certain additional establishments in connection with the scheme for the better control of distilleries.

READ—the following letter from W. S. MEYER, Esq., I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, the 1st September 1898, No. 3863-Ex.:—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 433, dated the 4th August 1898, requesting that the sanction of the Secretary of State may be obtained to certain additional Excise Inspectors to be entertained in connection with a scheme for the better control of distilleries.

2. I am to point out that the whole scheme of new appointments proposed, amounting in all to Rs. 1,433 a month, will require the sanction of the Secretary of State, and I am to request the favour of further justification of the 17 Sub Inspectors proposed to be employed to assist the Distillery Assistant Inspectors in their work. It is understood that at present an Assistant Inspector is ordinarily in sole charge of a distillery, and the Government of India would be glad to know why this arrangement is no longer deemed satisfactory now that the efficiency of the Assistant Inspectors will be improved by the special training referred to in paragraph 1 of your letter.

READ—again the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., I C.S., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, dated 6th February 1899, Mis. No. 534:—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No 3563-Ex., dated 1st September 1898, asking for a further justification for the entertainment of the seven or eight Sub Inspectors, whom it was proposed to employ to assist the distillery Assistant inspectors.

2. In reply, I am to explain that the recommendation of this Government originated in the rule which prohibits distillation or the presence in the distillery of the distiller or his employes when no Government officer is on the spot. An Assistant Inspector is now in sole charge of each distillery; but in many of them the day's business cannot be closed during the hours fixed for his attendance and the enforcement of the rule above referred to has led to the levy of heavy overtime fees. In some cases Sub Inspectors are already employed for night distillation at the cost of the distillers. The existence of the smaller distilleries is moreover now being threatened by the competition of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories Company,

which supplies two-thirds of the country spirits consumed in the Presidency, and the Government is of opinion that it is not desirable that they should be handicapped by the additional charges referred to. On all these grounds this Government considers that it is necessary to employ a Sub Inspector at Government expense to help the distillery Assistant Inspector. If the arrangement is allowed for the smaller distilleries, it will be invidious to deny it at the larger establishments. His Excellency in Council believes that the larger revenue realised by the closer supervision which the scheme will secure will more than cover the additional cost of the Sub Inspectors.

3. I am to add that no Sub Inspector has been proposed for the distillery at Aravanghat, the issues at which are on a small scale. On the other hand, two sub-inspectors are required at each of the Ránipéttai and Nellikuppam distilleries, the transactions at which are very heavy.

4. In these circumstances, I am to express the hope that the Government of India will see its way to the retention of the seventeen distillery Sub Inspectors and that the very early sanction of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State may be obtained to the scheme submitted in my letter, No. 433, dated 4th August 1898.

READ—also the following letter from W. S. MEYER, Esq., I C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, the 22nd May 1899, No. 2332-Ex. :—

With reference to your letter, Mis. No. 534, dated 6th February 1899, I am directed to forward a copy of the marginally-noted despatches to and from the Secretary of State for India from which it will be seen that His Lordship has sanctioned the entertainment, at an aggregate cost of Rs. 1,433 a month, of the additional establishment proposed by the Government of Madras in connection with the scheme for the more efficient supervision of distilleries, liquor depots and warehouses in the Madras Presidency.

ENCLOSURES.

Despatch from His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council in the Finance and Commerce Department (Salaries, Establishments, &c.—Excise), to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, dated Calcutta, the 16th March 1899, No. 74 of 1899.

We have the honour to forward a copy of the correspondence with the Government of Madras, noted in the annexed schedule, regarding the entertainment of an additional establishment required for working the distilleries, and liquor depots and warehouses in the Madras Presidency.

2. In our despatch of 18th August 1896, No. 233, we pointed out the difficulties that had arisen from the expert managers of the large Madras distilleries being subjected to the control of untrained excise officials. A great step towards remedying this state of things was taken by the appointment of a specialist from England as Supervisor of Distilleries under the title of Abkari Deputy Commissioner under Your Lordship's Despatch of 12th November 1896, No. 149 (Revenue). This officer is now imparting his knowledge and methods to the subordinate officers of the department, and the result is that we shall shortly have in Madras a body of trained assistant inspectors and sub-inspectors for local charge of distilleries, depots and warehouses, the cost of the establishments at the latter being recoverable from the warehouse-keepers. But the Abkari Deputy Commissioner can obviously not exercise constant and direct supervision over these officials throughout the Presidency; he must confine himself to the occasional inspections that were formerly carried out by the ordinary Deputy and Assistant Commissioners. The intermediate link of control has hitherto vested in the Inspector of the Salt and Abkari Circle in which a distillery, &c., is situated, that is, in an officer without special training in distillery work and with many other duties to attend to. The Madras Government's proposal is to create three special Distillery Inspectors, trained by the Abkari

Deputy Commissioner, each of whom will under his orders check the work of the local distillery officers in the best possible way, i.e., by himself taking over charge of the distillery (without warning) two or three times a year, the Assistant Inspector ordinarily in charge being *pro tem* sent out to check rail consignments of spirits.

3. The scheme is, in our opinion, an excellent one. Not only will it greatly improve the check on distillery operations and thus prevent loss of revenue, but it will free the ordinary staff of Inspectors from what is to them the most difficult and uncongenial part of their present duties, and thus allow them to devote more attention to tree-tax and general preventive work.

4. The local charge of a distillery has hitherto ordinarily vested in a single Assistant Inspector. In their letter of 6th February 1899, No. 534, the Madras Government point out the desirability of supplementing those officers by Sub Inspectors, seventeen of whom (in all) will be entertained for this purpose. Here again we think that the Madras proposal is justified. The Assistant Inspectors cannot single-handed do all that is now required of them, and to give them the assistance proposed will produce greater promptitude in, and more efficient control of, distillery arrangements which will bear fruit in larger receipts in the shape of duty on issues.

* Rs. 1,290 for Inspectors and Sub Inspectors, and Rs. 143 under clerks, petty officers and peons.

	No. of proof gallons of country spirits passed out of distilleries.	Aggregate duty.
† 1894-95	926,995	84,78,127
1895-96	976,876	36,16,680
1896-97	976,454	39,38,147
1897-98	922,171 ‡	87,61,983

‡ Decrease due to famine.

5. The net extra cost of the whole scheme of new appointments proposed is Rs. 1,433 a month including three permanent appointments of Inspectors on Rs. 350, Rs. 300 and Rs. 250 a month, with a local allowance of Rs. 50 a month in each case. The cost of the scheme is small compared to the revenue † which the distilleries produce, and we strongly recommend it for Your Lordship's sanction.

Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 27th April 1899, No. 87, Revenue.

I have considered in Council Your Excellency's letter, No. 74 (Finance and Commerce), dated 16th March 1899, supporting a proposal of the Government of Madras that certain appointments, at an aggregate cost of Rs. 1,433 a month, should be created in view to the more efficient supervision of distilleries, liquor depots and warehouses in that Presidency.

2. I am glad to learn from your letter that the appointment in 1896 of Mr. Bennett as Abkari Deputy Commissioner has so far yielded satisfactory results; and I sanction the additional establishment now proposed for assisting him in his work.

Despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 74, dated 16th March 1899, and enclosures.
Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 87, Revenue, dated 27th April 1899.

Copy, with copy of the papers marginally noted, forwarded to the Accountant-General, Madras.

ORDER—No. 359, Revenue, dated 6th June 1899.

Separate Revenue No. 61.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue).
,, the Financial Department.

Etd. Shaik Karim.

40 Copies.

First copy sent to President.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in

READ AGAIN G. S. FORBES

REMARKS No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

NOT FILED UP BEING WANT FOR DEPARTMENT IN ORIGINAL.

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