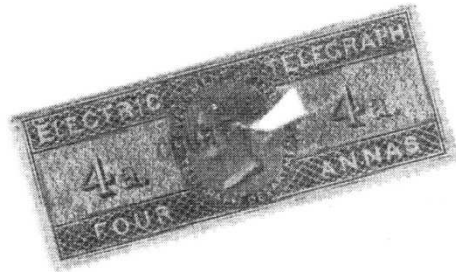


# INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

(1851 - 1914)

Philatelic and Operational History of Indian Telegraphs



**ILYAS PATEL  
DHANANJAY DESAI**

## TELEGRAPH RATES

### *General*

Any new facility for the public, whether introduced by the Government or private enterprise is always to be paid for, to recover the expenditure incurred in introducing and running it. The telegraph was not an exception to the rule. The study of telegraph rates has been divided in two parts, Inland and Foreign. These are discussed in detail in the following paragraphs.

### *Rates For Inland Messages*

#### *Basic Message Rates*

#### *Rates Based on Distance*

In the beginning, a simple rate structure was adopted limited to the common units of money to make this new facility popular with the general public. There were sixteen annas to a rupee and the charges introduced were one anna per word or 16 words per rupee. This was the first, most practical, simple, and easily acceptable rate method which was also associated with distance upon which the message has to be sent. The charges were to be prepaid by the sender. The rates introduced on February 1, 1855, were as follows :

No. of words	Distance in Miles	Charge in Rupee	Charge for each additional word
16 or less	Up to 400	1	1 Anna per word
16 or less	401-800	2	2 Anna per word
16 or less	801-1200	3	3 Anna per word
16 or less	1201-1600	4	4 Anna per word

They remained in force till 1859. The delivery up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the delivery Telegraph Office was free and a charge of 4 Annas per mile for all distances beyond that was fixed.

In March 1859, reduction and alterations in the charges for Messages was made vide Government Notification No. 225 of 1859 which came in to effect from March 9, 1859. Extracts from which reads as under :

#### **Charge for distance**

- I. Each rate for distance will be reckoned, as before, at 1 Rupee for 16 words sent to 400 miles, but instead of following the actual length of the line, the distance are computed by the geographical intervals according to Tables already issued from this Office.

#### **Rates for Words**

- II. Above 16 words, the rates have hitherto been charged at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  = 24 words, 2 = 32, 3 = 48, 4 = 64, and so on- a single word above a particular rate entailing

## 100 : INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

the payment of the next whole rate. This is abolished, and in future the charge will be one Anna per word for every word above 16.

\*

### Peon Hire

- VI. This charge is reduced one-half, viz. from 4 Anna to 2 Anna per mile, measured from each Telegraph Office Local Lines.
- VII. Wherever short local lines exist, under 100 miles in length, the charge will be 8 Anna for 16 words, and 2 Pice for each word over. By local lines are meant those not forming part of the main trunk system.

In 1862 the free delivery distance was increased to two miles from delivery Telegraph Office. These rates continued till 1866.

### *Rates Based on Word Group and Distance*

In 1866, the Indian Telegraph Department revised the Rules to bring in line with the practice in force on European lines, where messages were charged for by group and half groups. A group consisted of 20 words, and half a group of any number not exceeding 10 words. The revised rates came into operation on January 15, 1866 were as under:

#### SCALE OF CHARGES FOR A GROUP OF 20 WORDS

	Not exceeding	100 miles	Rs. 0 8 0
Above 100	and "	200 miles	Rs. 1 0 0
Above 200	" "	400 miles	Rs. 1 8 0
Above 400	" "	800 miles	Rs. 2 0 0
Above 800	" "	1200 miles	Rs. 3 0 0
Above 1200	" "	1600 miles	Rs. 4 0 0
Above 1600	" "	2000 miles	Rs. 5 0 0

*and so on, adding one rupee for every 400 miles, or fraction of 400 miles. Half the above rates were charged for every 10 words or less after the first group. Two rupees and a half in addition to the rate to Paumbem are charged for every group of 20 words sent to any station in Ceylon, and one rupee for every additional 10 or fraction of 10 words in excess of 20.*

With the introduction of revised rates, the procedure of peon hiring was abolished, and in lieu thereof, a fixed booking fee of 8 Annas was levied on every message, irrespective of its length, the distance it had to travel, or the hour at which it was tendered for transmission. This fee was levied to cover the expense of registering the message at the booking station and of the peon who delivers it. If the message had to be sent partly by the Government and partly by Private Lines, the booking fee was to be paid once only for each system of Lines. The free delivery distance was increased from two to five miles from the Telegraph Office. Beyond this distance messages were sent either by registered post, the fee being prepaid, or by such other means as the sender may arrange and pre pay for at the booking station. Any additional words that

may be necessary to explain the mode of delivery of a message when its destination was more than five miles beyond the nearest Telegraph Office, were considered as part of the message, and charged for accordingly.

***Rates Based on Uniform Word Group***

In 1868, Government of India joined the International Telegraph Union and issued a notification on September 20, 1868 for revised telegraph rates which came into force from October 1, 1868. With this, the distance based charge method was abolished and a uniform word group method was continued. The unit length of message was reduced to 10 words and booking fee was also abolished at the same time. The revised rates introduced were as follows :

*The charge for a message in ordinary English language between any two stations in India or Burma, will be one rupee for every 10 words.*

*The charge for a message in Cypher, in words of concealed meaning, or in foreign language, will be two rupees for every 10 words. These messages are always repeated back by the receiving office, to ensure the greatest possible accuracy.*

*A double charge will be levied upon all messages tendered for transmission between the hours of 6 P.M. and 6 A.M., also on Sundays, and the following holidays :*

*Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, and the Queen's birthday.*

*In addition to the above, two rupees and eight annas will be charged for each group of 20 words sent to or from any station in Ceylon, and a half-rate, one rupee four annas, for every additional 10 words or fraction of 10 words in excess of 20.*

The Rules as well as rates were revised in 1870 and implemented with effect from March 1, 1870 as under :

*The charge for a message in ordinary English language between any two stations in India or Burma, will be one rupee for every 10 words. A message can be sent from any Government Telegraph Station to any Railway Telegraph Station, or vice versa, at the same rate.*

*The charge for a message in Cypher, in words of concealed meaning, or in foreign language, will be two rupees for every 10 words. These messages are always repeated back by the receiving office, to ensure the greatest possible accuracy.*

*Messages between any stations in Ceylon and Calcutta, or place West of Calcutta, are charged one rupee for 20 words or less, in addition to the Indian charge. Messages between Ceylon and places East of Calcutta are charged two rupees for 20 words or less in addition to the Indian charge.*

*The local rates in Ceylon are one rupee for 20 words for any description of message between any two stations not exceeding 200 miles apart, with 8 annas for every additional 10 words. For distance greater than 200 miles these charges are doubled. Double charges are levied on messages sent after hours or on holidays, the same as in India.*

*A double charge will be levied upon all messages tendered for transmission between the hours of 6 P.M. and 6 A.M., also on Sundays, and the following holidays :*

*Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, and the Queen's birthday.*

## 102 : INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

With this, an added relief was also introduced for which the Telegraph Rule reads as follows:

**RULE-XXIX** – *All that the sender writes in his message to be transmitted is included in the cost, but in the address of a message, as defined in Rule XXI, three words will be charged as one word.*

The Telegraph Rules and tariff were revised once again and came into force from January 1, 1872 as under:

Particulars	For every six words or less, exclusive of the address			
	In ordinary language		In Cypher	
	Rs	As	Rs	As
1) Between any two stations in India or British Burmah	1	0	2	0
2) Between any station in India and any station in British Burmah or Ceylon	1	8	3	0
3) Between any station in Ceylon and any station in British Burmah	2	0	4	0
No charge is made for transmission of address.				

### Ceylon Local Tariff

Particulars	For a message of 20 words including address		For every additional 10 words or less	
	Rs.	As	Rs.	As.
1) Between any two stations in Ceylon not exceeding 200 miles apart	1	0	0	8
2) Between any two stations in Ceylon exceeding 200 miles apart.	2	0	1	8

During 1880, the Rules and tariff were revised and introduced with effect from April 1, 1880 as under :

Particulars	For the first six words or groups of three figures		For each additional word or group of three figures		For every six words or groups of three figures	
	Rs	As	Rs	As	Rs	As
Between any two stations in India	1	0	0	2	—	
Between any station in India and any station in Ceylon	—		—		1	8
No charge is made for the transmission of the address.						

### **Introduction of Message Classification**

In order to improve the telegraph services and to expedite the message transmission, it was decided to introduce telegram classification with transmission

priorities. The Administrative Report of the Indian Telegraph Department for the year 1881-82 supplies very good information regarding this. The same is reproduced as under:

**THE NEW TARIFF FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS**

*In the Resolution of the 31st May 1881, His Excellency the Governor-General in Council authorized the introduction of a "word" rate of two annas a word for each word in excess of the minimum charge of one rupee for six words, and indicated the future policy of the Government of India with regard to the development of the telegraph service briefly as follows:*

*The Government of India is willing and anxious to forward any scheme for developing and facilitating communication by telegraph so far as this can be done without risk to the interests of the general tax-paying community; but in the interests of that community it is essential that the telegraph service should be self-supporting. The Government of India, as opportunity arises, will consider measures for the partial amalgamation of the telegraph and postal services so as to secure economy of working.*

*By the same Resolution the power to authorize the Telegraph Department to erect lines and open offices was, with certain necessary restrictions, and the Director-General of Telegraphs was desired to suggest further extended to local Governments and Administrations; measures which might encourage the more extended use of the telegraph service by the public without endangering the financial position of the Department.*

*In accordance with these orders, the Director-General of Telegraphs has submitted for the approval of Government a scheme for the revision of the tariff, which, while affording room for a very considerable further reduction in rates, will admit of a large expansion of the traffic without necessitating additional expenditure on increasing the number of wires.*

*The main feature of this scheme consists in the introduction of arrangements which will permit the disposal of message traffic in order of urgency instead of as at present, in order of presentation of messages.*

*Under the present system messages are, with very few exceptions, transmitted in order of receipt, without any reference to their comparative urgency; in the case of commercial and "State" telegrams almost the whole of the messages sent are tendered for transmission during the business hours of the day, the result being a great pressure of work for a few hours, while for the rest of the day and night the wires are lying comparatively idle; and messages of great urgency are not infrequently delayed awaiting their turn for transmission, while the wires are occupied with messages of less importance, in which a delay of some hours would be of no consequence whatever.*

*On the other hand, messages are delivered on arrival at any hour of the day or night irrespective of their urgency; they are frequently delayed in transit owing to the cause referred to above; and the addressees are needlessly disturbed at night by the receipt of telegrams on which no action can be taken until the following day.*

*It is obvious that the telegraph officials cannot be the judges of the comparative urgency of messages tendered for transmission; the selection must be made by the senders themselves; and, in order to admit of this being done the more readily the Director-*

*General of Telegraphs proposes to introduce, in addition to the ordinary class of message, two other classes, "deferred" and "urgent". Messages marked by senders as "deferred" will be received at any time during the working hours of the Telegraph Office, but will be transmitted at the convenience of the Telegraph Department on the understanding that they shall be delivered at their destination early on the following morning. Such messages would usually be transmitted during the night, when the wires are comparatively free, and would be delivered at their destination through the Post Office with the first postal delivery, except at stations where such a procedure would entail too much delay.*

*Messages marked by the senders as "Urgent" will have priority over all ordinary messages, and will be delivered immediately on arrival by special messengers.*

*Messages marked by the senders as "Ordinary" will be dealt with in order of receipt, as under the present system, but will yield priority to all "urgent" messages.*

*His Excellency the Governor-General in Council believes that the introduction of the "deferred" message system as sketched out above will prove a very great convenience to the public in improving the service for transmission of really urgent messages, and it will enable a large reduction in average cost of telegraphing to be made, owing to the facilities it would give for utilizing the wires for a greater proportion of the twenty-four hours than is possible under the present system.*

*For "deferred" messages, which may be expected to comprise the great bulk of communications relating to such subjects as mercantile transactions effected, evening resumes of operations between corresponding firms, orders issued too late for execution the same day, modifications of orders already sent by post, and to most of the telegrams on domestic concerns, a very considerable reduction of cost will be possible; for ordinary message the number of words to be allowed can be slightly increased with safety; but for "urgent" messages; it will be necessary to somewhat increase the cost, as the privilege of priority and delivery by special messenger which is accorded to such messages will, while adding considerably to their value to the sender, entail additional cost on the State. It is also necessary to make the rates for "urgent" messages sufficiently high to restrict such messages to really important communications, as otherwise the value of the priority obtained would be largely reduced.*

*His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is accordingly pleased to direct that the telegraph rules be revised on this basis, and has approved of the following tariff:*

*The address to be transmitted free in all cases, as at present.*

*Local messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission in ordinary course within a radius of six miles from a central telegraph office :*

*Four annas for each group of eight words or less.*

*Deferred messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission at the convenience of the Telegraph Department, but to be delivered at destination early on the following morning :*

*Minimum charge eight annas for eight words or less, with one anna for each additional word in excess of eight.*

*Ordinary messages, that is, messages tendered for transmission and delivery in ordinary course :*

*Minimum charge one rupee for eight words or less, with two annas for each additional word in excess of eight.*

*Urgent messages, that is, messages tendered for immediate transmission and delivery with priority over all "ordinary" messages :*

*Minimum charge two rupees for eight words or less, with four annas for each additional word in excess of eight.*

*Press messages to be subject to the same rates as above, but four times the number of words are allowed for each rate.*

*The revised rules and tariff published with this Resolution will come into force on the 1st January 1882.*

*His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is further pleased to direct that with a view to reduce expenditure and to prevent the State business from unduly interfering with private message traffic, all State telegraph messages shall be sent as "deferred" unless specially marked as "urgent" by the sender, and that no State message shall be despatched as an "Ordinary" message.*

*The rules for press messages, which come into effect on the 1st January next, are as follows :*

1. *A "Press" message is defined to be a message written in ordinary English language, addressed only to a newspaper or newspapers, and intended for publication in its entirety in such newspapers. The message must be one of manifestly public interest and must contain no commercial news of any kind.*
2. *All rules and regulations that apply to ordinary messages apply also to Press messages except as regards the charges.*
3. *In a Press message four times as many words are allowed for the same money as in a private message; the charges will be*

**Urgent** - *Two rupees for the first 32 words, and four annas for every additional 4 words.*

**Ordinary**- *One rupee for the first 32 words, and two annas for every additional 4 words.*

**Deferred**- *Eight annas for the first 32 words, and one anna for every additional 4 words.*

4. *In order to prevent any correspondent monopolizing the wires to the detriment of other newspapers, the maximum limit of length is 500 words. Press messages can only be accepted for transmission during the working hours of the Telegraph Office at the station of origin.*
5. *Press messages can only be addressed to newspapers, the names of which have been registered in the Office of the Director-General of Telegraphs, in whom is vested the power of refusing the concession in any particular case on sufficient grounds, or of withdrawing it after it has been granted should have reason to believe that the conditions are in any way infringed.*



**106 : INDIAN TELEGRAPHS**

Summarizing the above, the rates which came into force from January 1, 1882 were as under :

**(A) Between any two stations in India.**

Message Class	Charge for first eight words or group of three figures		Charge for each additional word or groups of three figures		Remark
	Rs.	As	Rs.	As	
Local	0	4	0	4*	* Each additional eight words or groups of three figures.
Deferred	0	8	0	1	
Ordinary	1	0	0	2	
Urgent	2	0	0	4	
No charge is made for the transmission of address.					

**(B) Messages for Ceylon and Native Burma**

Particulars	Charge per word in					
	Ceylon			Native Burma		
	Rs.	As	Ps	Rs.	As	Ps
From any station in India West of Chittagong	0	3	0	0	4	6
From any station in India East of Chittagong	0	4	6	0	3	0
All words except the name of the station of origin in addresses are counted.						

In 1887, the message class 'LOCAL' was discontinued leaving three message class namely; Deferred, Ordinary, and Urgent without changing their respective rates. In 1898, a little modification was made. The number of words were kept same as 8 but the group of 'three' figures was altered to 'five', keeping the rates unchanged.

In early 1904 new telegraph rates were introduced in which, for the first time in India, the words forming the address to which the telegram was to be sent were decided to be charged for. Against this, as a compensation, the minimum charge for deferred telegram was reduced from eight annas to four annas, and six words forming the address was granted free transmission with an additional charge of one anna per word in excess of the minimum group length. The rates which came into force from January 1, 1904 were as follows:

Class	No. of words	Rate		Each extra word		Address
		Rs.	As	Rs.	As	
Urgent	16	2	0	0	4	Charged for
Ordinary	16	1	0	0	2	Charged for
Deferred	4	0	4	0	1	Six words free

**TELEGRAPH RATES : 107**

These rates were again modified in a very short span of only two years and the revised rates implemented from March 1906 were as follows :

Class	No. of words	Rate		Each extra word		Address
		Rs.	As	Rs.	As	
Urgent	16	2	0	0	4	Charged for
Ordinary	16	1	0	0	2	Charged for
Deferred	10	0	4	0	1	Charged for

The experience of introducing the 'Deferred' telegram was not fruitful and during the passage of time it was learnt that there was a continuous loss for each such message transmission to the department. This brought a major revision for which the Post Office Circular No. - 88/80 dated December 21, 1908 issued by the Director General, Post Office, Calcutta reads as under:

*It has been decided by the Government of India that, with effect from the 1st January 1909, there shall be only two class of inland telegrams, viz., "Express", and "Ordinary", instead of the existing three classes "Deferred", "Ordinary", and "Urgent", and that with effect from the same date the Inland telegram tariff shall be revised as follows:*

Class	Unit No. of words	Unit Rate		Each additional word		Address
		Rs.	As	Rs.	As	
Express	12	1	0	0	2	Charged for
Ordinary	12	0	6	0	½	Charged for

The rates were unchanged till the Telegraph Department merged with the Postal Department *i.e.* on April 1, 1914.

***Rates For Reply Paid Messages***

The facility for 'Reply Paid Messages' were given from the very beginning to the sender. This is evident from the earliest Telegraph Rules of 1855 (Rule XII and Rule XIV) shown in Annex-I. From the very beginning, the charges for the reply paid messages were collected separately and the reply was limited to the number of words so prepaid for subject to the condition that minimum charge will be one single rate *i.e.* one rupee for 16 words or less for a distance of 400 miles. In case, if reply was not available, the amount of reply paid message was refundable to the sender on production of the receipt. The revised Telegraph Rules (Rule 31) which came into effect from January 15, 1866, supplies some additional information regarding this which reads as under :

**RULE - 31 -** *The sender of a message may prepay the charge for a reply, which must be limited to the number of words so prepaid for, and must be sent within three days of receipt of the message, or the right of sending a reply "paid bearing" will lapse. Should the sender not receive a reply within fourteen days, the Telegraph Master will refund to him on demand and receipt, the deposit made for the reply.*

The Telegraph Rules were revised again with effect from March 1, 1870. The Rule XXXVIII gives more clear information about reply paid messages as under 20:

**RULE-XXXVIII** – *The sender of a message can prepay a reply. He must add the words ‘reply paid’ or ‘answer paid’. These must form the concluding words of the message and will be signalled and charged for. The sender can add to the words ‘reply paid’ or ‘answer paid’ the cost to which he wishes to reply to be limited on paying the corresponding amount. When the words ‘reply paid’ alone are given without any specified amount, it will be understood that one rupee only has been paid. The terminal station pays to the receiver in Telegraph Stamps the amount prepaid, leaving it to him to send his answer how and when he pleases, or not to send one at all. The reply is considered in every respect as a fresh message.*

Revising the Rules again which came into force from January 1, 1873, the sender was allowed to prepay a reply for the words not exceeding 200 and deposit the sum accordingly. This was slightly modified in 1878. Instead of depositing a prepay reply for a maximum of 200 words, now the sender had to prepay a deposit for this purpose a sum not exceeding ten times the cost of his original telegram. In addition to this, in case, when the amount deposited for a reply exceeds the cost of the telegram reporting non-delivery (A fixed charge of Rupees 2 were collected for the return telegram), the sender had to apply for a refund for the balanced amount at Telegraph Check Office, Calcutta.

In 1887, the procedure for reply paid messages was changed and made in accordance with the prevailing telegraph classification. Now for reply paid messages the sender had to pay a fixed charge. The minimum charge collected was for the ‘Deferred’ telegram, whereas the maximum was limited to the ‘Urgent’ telegram charges. Since then the charges for the reply paid messages were in accordance with the prevailing telegraph classification. The charges during the period 1887-1914 were as under :

Year	Charges for Reply Paid Message			
	Minimum		Maximum	
	Rs.	As	Rs.	As
1887-1903	0	8	2	0
1904-1909	0	4	2	0
1910-1914	0	6	1	0

***Express Charges***

In case, if the sender wished to deliver his message by quickest possible means, he had to prepay the ‘Express Charges’. These charges were collected under two heads, viz; (a) Peon/Coolie Hire Charges and (b) Boat Hire Charges.

***Peon/Coolie Hire Charges***

During 1855 to 1859, the free delivery distance from the Telegraph Office was half mile. Beyond this distance, a peon hire charge at a rate of 4 annas per mile

was collected. In March 1859, it was reduced to two annas from four annas. The free delivery distance was increased from half mile to two miles in 1862.

On revision of Inland Rules which came into force from January 15, 1866, the system of peon hire was abolished, and, in lieu thereof, a fixed booking fee of eight annas was levied on each message. The free delivery distance was increased from two miles to five miles. Beyond this distance, message had to be sent either by registered post, or by any other means the sender wished and prepay for it. The booking fee too was abolished with effect from March 1, 1870. Thereafter the messages beyond free delivery distance were sent by post the charges for which were defrayed by the Telegraph Department. If sender wished he may sent his message by prepaying postal registration charges, or otherwise, by prepaying for 'Express Charges' for which the Telegraph Department Traffic Code Rule of 1879 reads as under:

**RULE-53 -** *Express Charges - Coolie hire, & C. - When the Sender wishes his message forwarded to a place beyond the free delivery radius of a Telegraph Station by quicker means than the Post, he must deposit such sum as he may consider sufficient to cover the cost of the special delivery(See Art. 109 a).*

**RULE-109 a -** *When a message has to be delivered by special messenger beyond the free radius, the quickest means of transit available for the money deposited will always be engaged, but in the event of its being impracticable to obtain any kind of special messenger for the amount deposited the message will be sent to its destination by post. Insufficient deposits for special messenger will be returned to the Sender on his applying to the Check Office for refund.*

### **Rates For Boat Hire**

Like peon hire charges, boat hire charges were also to be prepaid for ship messages to be delivered on board vessels. The boat hire facility available at the places along with their respective charge during 1861 were as under :

Place	Charge	
	Rs.	As.
Calcutta	0	04
Masulipatam and Vizagapatam	0	08
Cannanore and Calicut	0	12
Hoogly Point, Paumbem, Cochin		
Galle, Bombay, Goa, Surat,		
Vingorla and Kurrachee	1	00
Pondicherry	1	02
Madras and Colombo	1	08
Coconada	2	00
Saugor	3	00

With the extension of telegraph facilities to more and more ports, the charges for boat hire at these ports during 1880 were as under. It is presumed that the above stated boat hire charges were in force during the period 1861-1880.

## 110 : INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

Place	Charge		Place	Charge	
	Rs.	As.		Rs.	As.
Akayub	1	0	<b>Ceylon</b>		
Amherst	5	0	Batticaloa (h) (i)	1	8
Bassein	0	6	Colombo	0	12
Chittagong	0	8	Galle	0	8
Elephant Point (a)	15	0	Trincomalli	0	8
Ditto (b)	3	0	<b>West Coast</b>		
Ditto (c)	0	8	Alleppy	1	0
Moulmein	0	6	Bombay (j)	0	8
Rangoon	0	4	Calicut	1	8
<b>Hooghly River</b>			Cannanore	1	8
Atcheepore (d)	1	0	Cochin	2	0
Calcutta (d)	0	4	Goa	1	4
Diamond Harbour (d)	1	0	Karwar	0	8
Hooghly Point (d)	1	0	Kumta	2	0
Mud Point	1	0	Kurrachee	0	12
Saugor Island (d)	1	0	Mangalore	1	12
<b>East Coast</b>			Quilon	0	12
Behrampore, Gopalpore (e)	1	3	Surat Domus (k)	1	8
Bimlipatam (f)	1	8	Dutch Bunder	0	2
Coconada	3	0	Magdala	0	4
Madras	1	8	Oomra	0	8
Masulipatam	1	0	Tellicherry	2	0
Negapatam	1	4	Trivandrum	1	8
Paumbem	1	8	Vengurla	1	0
Pondicherry	1	4			
Tuticorin	2	0			
Vizagapatam (g)	1	8			

### NOTE :

- (a) To vessels at Pilot Stations
- (b) To vessels in river 5 to 10 miles above Elephant Point
- (c) To vessels abreast of Elephant Point
- (d) Whether delivered by boat, or signalled by flag.
- (e) Rs 2-3 on Sundays and holidays. This includes coolie hire
- (f) Double on holidays & C.
- (g) Catamaran, 5 annas
- (h) Port only open in South-West monsoon
- (i) Double fare chargeable between sunset and sunrise, and on Sundays, holidays or in foul weather.
- (j) For delivery on board any vessel in the harbour.
- (k) Exclusive of 8 annas coolie hire.

On June 25, 1880, the Ceylon Telegraph business was handed over to the Ceylon Government. Since then the boat hire charges for the ports in Ceylon were fixed by the Ceylon Telegraph Department, Ceylon and the sender had to pay them according to their rates.

The facility of boat hire was extended further to many more ports. The list is long enough and hence not incorporated here under.

**Rates For Acknowledgment/Advice Of Delivery**

With the introduction of revised Rules and tariff which came into effect from January 1, 1873, a new facility of telegram acknowledgment or Advice of Delivery like postal registration acknowledgment was afforded to the sender. Accordingly if any sender wish to avail a notice of time and date at which his message was delivered be transmitted to him by telegraph, such advice of delivery may be addressed to him at any station he may name. Initially the charge for an advice of delivery was equal to that for a single message at ordinary or day rate. In 1873 the single message rate was one rupee for every six words or less.

In 1880 the Rules were revised with effect from December 1, 1880, in which a little modification or rather a clarification was made. Now the charge for an advice of delivery or non-delivery was fixed at one rupee within Indian limits, and one rupee and eight annas between India and Ceylon. With effect from January 1, 1909 the same was reduced to six annas. The receipt is shown below :

**Government Telegraph Department.**

NAME OF OFFICE AND DATE (STAMPED).

Telegram No. { Sent out at 13 h. 52 m. M. by Peon No. } Local time.  
 { who returned at h. m. M. }

addressed Sitaram Ramdhan  
S. Ambar

RECEIVED at \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_\_ ms. \_\_\_\_\_ M.

and paid { Bearing } Charges Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ As. \_\_\_\_\_  
 { Boat }

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

N. B.—The receiver of the accompanying telegram is **PARTICULARLY REQUESTED TO ENTER TIME OF RECEIPT**, and after payment of the charges (if any) to sign the Receipt and return it to the bearer without delay. *Delay in delivery or unauthorised demand made by the Peon should be noted on the back of this*

(P. 2)—G. T. Press, —No. 258, —30-9-78, —500000.

**Rates For Press Messages**

**Paid Press Messages**

In the absence of any specific information available regarding the rates for Press Messages, for the period 1855 - 1871, it is very difficult to specify them here in clear form. It is learnt from the available records that full coverage at a cheap rate was afforded to the Press from the very beginning. But, from the available Rules as well as rates it is not possible to specify them. Though the Rule XXVIII of 1855 (Chapter 1, Annexure-1.2) do have reference regarding the Press messages, it states about the free transmission of messages of great importance only. The Telegraph Rules during the period 1855-71 do not disclose any further information regarding them.

## 112 : INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

The revised Rules which came into force from January 1, 1872, gives some information regarding Press Messages for which the Rule LIII reads as under :

**RULE-LIII** - *Under certain conditions, to be ascertained on application to the Director-General of Telegraphs (Traffic Branch), bonafide Press messages, i.e., messages in the ordinary English language addressed to, and intended for publication in a newspaper, can be despatched at reduced rates, and will not be subject to the increase levied on ordinary messages despatched at night, and on Sundays or Holidays.*

Again, from the above as well as from the prevailing rates, it is not possible to trace out any information about the reduced rates afforded to the Press messages. A some what clear information is available in the Telegraph Department Traffic Code Rule of 1879 which reads as under:

**RULE-152** - **Definition** - *A Press message is defined to be a message written in ordinary English language, originating in India, British Burmah or Ceylon, addressed only to a Newspaper or Newspapers within those limits, and intended for publication in its entirety in such Newspaper or Newspapers. The message must be one of manifestly public interest, and must contain no Commercial News of any kind. The quotation of British consols is considered political, not commercial, news.*

*II - Telegrams certified to be on Press business addressed to the Press Commissioner with the Government of India by Editors are accepted as 'Press' messages.*

**RULE-153** - **Tariff and Length** - *All Rules and Regulations that apply to ordinary messages apply also to Press messages, except as regards the charges and length.*

*II - The charge for a Press message is one fourth the ordinary rate ary Rate. Press messages are not subject to the increased levied on ordinary messages despatched at night, or on Sundays or holidays. The limit to the length of a Press message is fixed at 500 words, and the minimum charge at one rupee, by groups of 24, 48, 72, &c., words (instead of 6, 12, 18, &c.) in the case of Indian messages, i.e., those coming under the conditions of Rule XXI. Ceylon Local Press messages (vide Rule XXV) are chargeable by groups of 80, 160, 240, &c., words (instead of 20, 40, 60, &c.).*

*III - The charge for 'Press' or 'Government and Press' message will be calculated under INLAND RULES 36 and 37. The charges for messages addressed to Press at particular Stations only from any of Reuter's Agencies will similarly be calculated under Rules 36 and 37.*

**RULE-154** - **Registration of Newspapers** - *Press messages can only be addressed to Newspapers the names of which have been registered in the Office of the Director General of Telegraphs, in whom is vested the power of refusing the concession in any particular case on sufficient grounds, or of withdrawing it after it has been granted, should he have reason to believe that the conditions are in any way infringed.*

**RULE-156 – Press Messages by Railway Telegraph** - Press messages at reduced rates can be accepted at, received in, transfer from, and transferred to all stations on State or Guaranteed Railways with the following exceptions:-

*Great Indian Peninsula Railway,  
Madras Railway,  
Oudh and Rohilkund Railway,  
South Indian Railway, and  
Sindh, Punjab and Delhi Railway.*

*Press messages must not be transferred to the excepted railways named, and if received in transfer from them, they will be charged at full ordinary rates.*

The more clear information regarding Press messages came into existence when Classification of Messages was introduced with effect from January 1, 1882, and is already covered under ‘The New Tariff for Inland Telegrams.’ With this, a clear cut distinction as well as specific Rules were also brought out for the Press Messages. Since then it is possible to specify the rates for Press Messages which are summarised in tabular form as under :

Message Class	Period											
	1882-1904			1904-1906			1906-1909			1909-1914		
	Words	Rate		Words	Rate		Words	Rate		Words	Rate	
		Rs.	As.		Rs.	As.		Rs.	As.		Rs.	As.
Urgent	32	2	0	64	2	0	64	2	0	48	1	0
Ordinary	32	1	0	64	1	0	64	1	0	48	0	8
Deferred	32	0	8	16	0	4	40	0	4	Class deleted		

The charge for each additional four words were 4 annas, 2 annas and 1 anna for their respective class during the period 1882- 1909. It was reduced to 2 annas and 1 anna for Urgent and Ordinary messages during 1909, whereas ‘Deferred’ class of message was abolished in the same year as mentioned earlier.

**News Free Press Messages**

It is interesting to note that some of the Press messages were granted free transmission designated as ‘News Free Messages’. The list for such messages was published time to time by the Government. One such list published during the year 1879 is reproduced which is also available as Rule 175 in the Telegraph Department Traffic Code Rules of 1879. It reads as under:

**RULE-175 – List of Messages sanctioned by Government to be sent as News -Free.**

*(a) Reports of the arrival of European and Colonial Mail steamers at Galle to be sent to Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Pondichery. The arrival of these steamers at Bombay to be reported to Calcutta, Madras, and Galle. This does not include the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company the movements of which are not reported free.*

*(b) Reports of the arrival of the English Mail steamers at Bombay to be sent to All Stations(Ceylon excepted).*



## 114 : INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

(c) Reports of the arrival at, and departure from, Galle, Trincomalee, Madras, and Bombay of any of Her Majesty's ships-of-war to be sent to Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay.

(d) Reports of arrival at, and departure from, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, and Galle of all French ships-of-war, or troop-ships, and of departure from Galle for Pondichery of the French mail steamer, to be sent to Pondichery.

(e) Meteorological reports to be sent daily to Calcutta from the following stations:- Akyab, Chittagong, Cuttack, Madras, False Point, Saugor Island, Vizagapatam, and Colombo.

(f) Meteorological reports to be sent daily to Bombay from 1st May to 31st October only from the following stations:- Cannanore, Carwar, Mangalore, Tuticorin, and Vingorla.

(g) Reports of arrival in sight of Madras of the French mail steamer from Calcutta to be sent to Pondichery.

(h) Reports of arrival at Galle of the French mail steamer from Pondichery to be sent to Pondichery.

(i) The departure from Madras of homeward-bound European mail steamers to be reported to the Post Master General of Ceylon (Colombo).

### **Rates For Foreign Messages**

#### **General**

Foreign telegrams are those telegrams which are sent to, or received from, places beyond Indian limits. Such telegrams are subject to the regulations laid down by the International Telegraph Union which was founded in 1865 in Paris to bring out the uniformity in message transmission among all the countries as well as to establish an internationally acceptable tariffs and procedure to settle the accounts between the member countries. India joined it in 1868. For the purpose of convenience, Foreign rates for only UK/Europe are discussed here under.

#### **Rates of Red Sea and India Telegraph Company**

It is already described that the first telegraphic communication between India and Europe was established by the Red Sea and India Telegraph Company in 1859. The charges published by this company for a single message from England to any Telegraph Station in India were as follows :

	£	s	d
Not exceeding 20 words	2	17	0
20-30 words	4	5	6
30-40 words	5	14	0

*Messages from India, with the full payment due upon them, at the above rates, will be received at any of the Government Telegraph Stations in that country, and forwarded by telegraph to Bombay, and thence, by the first opportunity to Aden.*

Due to frequent interruptions it did not continue long. Due to the non-availability of the material, it is very difficult to conclude whether messages from India were sent or not, by this route.

### ***Rates of Indo-European Telegraph Department***

The real communication between India and Europe was started when Indo-European Telegraph Company established its telegraph lines on the 'Turkish Route'. The line was opened to public in March, 1865. The charges published by the Indo-European Telegraph Department at Kurrachee were for the transmission of messages of 20 words including names and addresses, but not including the name of the place from which the message starts unless it is written in the body of the message. The rates to the United Kingdom were as follows :

To (upto 20 words)	From Kurrachee		From Bombay or any other station in India (not East of Calcutta)		From stations East of Calcutta		From Galle and stations in Ceylon	
	Rs.	As	Rs.	As	Rs.	As	Rs.	As
London	45	4	50	0	52	0	53	8
To any other place in UK at which there is a Telegraph Station.	45	13	50	9	52	9	54	1

A message containing 21 to 30 words, was charged for at one rate and a half. A message from 31 to 40 words, at two rates, and so on.

All charges were to be prepaid by the sender. The charges were same for all messages when tendered for transmission whether during the day time or at night, on Sundays or on Holidays. For all the messages East of Karachee, they included the price of repetition over the Indian lines. In addition to this, the expenses of transport beyond the telegraph lines were also to be prepaid in accordance with the following uniform rates :

- 1 Post : 8 annas for all destinations in Europe, and 1 Rupee for any other part of the World. These rates will be applicable to messages to be sent poste restante.
- 2 Express : 1 Rupee 4 annas. This mode of transport will only be admitted within a radius of 9½ miles of the office.
- 3 Express or 'estafette' beyond 9½ miles; payment to be deposited at the rate of 1 Rupee 8 annas per 6 miles. In default of estafette, the terminal station will employ the quickest means at its command.

By the end of 1866, second route to Europe via Russia also started functioning well. The rates for both the routes were as follows :

**116 : INDIAN TELEGRAPHS**

To (upto 20 words)	From Kurrachee		From Bombay or any other station in India. *		From stations East of Calcutta		From Galle and stations in Ceylon	
	Rs.	As	Rs.	As	Rs.	As	Rs.	As
<b>VIA TURKEY</b>								
London	45	04	50	0	52	0	53	8
To any other place in UK	45	13	50	9	52	9	54	1
<b>VIA RUSSIA</b>								
London	40	0	44	12	46	12	48	04
To any other place in UK	40	8	45	04	47	04	48	12
* Rs. 4-12 charged additional on Sundays or at night.								

In 1868, telegrams for America were also accepted for despatch from India by the Indo-European Telegraph, and thence by the Atlantic cable to their destination. The cost of the message was made up of two distinct charges-one, the charge for conveying the message to London at the above stated rates, the other for conveying the message from London to America the charges for which were :

For 10 words (not exceeding 50 letters) Rs. 52 ½

Per word beyond 10 words (averaging five letters per word) - Rs. 5.

On joining the Paris Telegraph Convention of 1865 at Vienna in 1868, India accepted the reduced rate for Indo- European Telegraph which came into operation on January 1, 1869 as under :

To all Telegraph stations in (from 1 to 20 words)	From					
	Kurrachee		Stations in India West of Chittagong		Ceylon and stations East of Chittagong	
	Rs.	As	Rs.	As	Rs.	As
UK and Ireland Via Turkey / Via Russia	25	00	28	12	30	12
London Via Turkey / Via Russia	24	10	28	08	30	08

In accordance with Article 32 of the Vienna Telegraph Convention the tariff for '10 words messages' between India and Europe was also accepted which came into operation from January 1, 1870, at a reduction of Rs.10 on the above-mentioned tariff for '20 words messages' from India, and of Rs. 8-6-0 of the rate from Kurrachee.

Meanwhile the submarine route via Suez was also opened for traffic in mid 1870. The rates on this route were same as mentioned above.

In its special conference at Berne (Rome) in 1871, the tariff was raised to Rs. 45 for a message group of 20 words or less whereas additional charge of Rs. 14¼ for a group of 10 words or less was unaltered. The report on the Traffic Operations of the Telegraph Department for the year 1871-72 provides us a very good information regarding these revised tariff which reads as follows:

*The Vienna Convention had fixed the tariff from London to India (West of Chittagong) at Rs. 28½ per 20 words by all routes. As mentioned in the last report, the charges via*

**TELEGRAPH RATES : 117**

*Suez and Via Teheran were raised by the companies from the 15th February, 1871, to Rs. 45 per 20 words, and those to other places were enhanced proportionately. The rates via Turkey, however, remained unchanged. It was contended by the companies that the lower rate was unremunerative, and that Turkey was working at a loss. A Special Commission was therefore convened at Berne which decided that Turkey must equalize its tariff with those by the other routes. It was also determined that the minimum chargeable length of a message should be twenty words, the special reduction in favour of ten-words messages being withdrawn. Turkey for some time refused to ratify the proceedings of this Commission, but eventually submitted. Accordingly from the 10th December, 1871, the rates by all routes were equalized. Since this date the number of messages traversing the Turkish route has decreased very seriously.*

In pursuance of Rome Convention, 10 word message tariff was adopted and accordingly the rates came into application from July 1, 1872 were as under:

From Bombay and stations in India	To	Via Russia				Via Turkey			
		10 words		Each additional word		10 words		Each additional word	
		Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.
West of Chittagong	London	21	0	2	2	19	12	2	0
	UK	21	4	2	2	20	00	2	0
East of Chittagong	London	22	0	3	2	20	12	3	0
	UK	22	4	3	2	21	00	3	0

The rates were revised again in 1875 at the St. Petersburg Convention and a new single word tariff was adopted for the Indo- European messages which came in to force from January 1, 1876. The rate per word in excess of the minimum message of ten words was fixed as 5½ Francs via Suez and 5 Francs via Turkey. The rates came into force were :

The rates were again increased and came into force from April 1, 1880 as:

Particulars		January 1, 1879 Per each word		
		Rs.	As.	Ps
From any station in India West of Chittagong	Via Suez or Tehran	2	12	0
	Via Turkey	2	08	0
From any station in India East of Chittagong	Via Suez or Tehran	2	14	0
	Via Turkey	2	10	0

The above mentioned rates per word were unchanged for quite a long time upto 1888. From 1888 onwards it is seen that the rates per word were changed very frequently or otherwise year after year The charge per word for all countries in Europe except Russia and Turkey from 1888 onwards are summarised in tabular form as under :

118 : INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

Year	Route					
	Via Turkey		Turkey in Asia Via Fao		Via Suez or Tehran	
	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.	Rs.	As.
1888	2	09	1	12	2	13
1889 -1891	2	12	2	00	3	00
1892	2	10	2	00	2	14
1893	3	00	2	05	3	05
1894	2	15	2	04	3	04
1895	3	08	2	10	3	13
1896	3	04	2	08	3	09
1897	3	02	2	06	3	07
1898	2	13	2	03	3	02
1899 - 1902	2	11	2	02	3	00
1903	2	11	1	07	1	14
1904 - 1905	1	11	1	07	1	14
1906 -1913	1	06	—		1	08

**Mode of Settlement with Foreign Agency**

Since the foreign telegrams involved the exchange of messages between two countries, the accounts were required to be settled in an internationally acceptable unit. Till 1900 the French 'Franc' was the monetary unit employed in Foreign Tariffs and the accounts with Foreign administrations were settled in gold. However, charges in India were collected at the standard exchange rate of;

15 Indian Rupees = 1 British Pound = 25 Francs

The charges varied from time to time due to share of different administrations of different countries concerned and secondly the route employed. However, the charge for a telegram was by word and the minimum charge was for a telegram of two words only. The rates per word changed with the country. For the tariff purpose India was divided into two parts, namely (1) India proper, and (2) Burma. When in the course of transmission a Foreign telegram had to traverse through both these areas, the charge per word was two annas higher than the charge if it traversed through only one country. However, charges for the Foreign Press telegrams as well as all the telegrams passing the frontiers at Bombay, Madras or Karachi, and for telegrams to Ceylon passing the frontier at Madras from India proper or Burma were the same *i.e.* exempted from 2 Annas higher charge. For the direct exchange of telegrams with Foreign Administrations, Offices known as 'The Frontier Offices', were established. Table below gives the names of Frontier Offices in India proper and Burma as well as Foreign Administration Offices dealing with the exchange.

**Frontier Offices**

- (a) **In India.**  
 Bombay  
 Karachi  
 Madras

**Foreign Administration Offices.**

- Eastern Telegraph Co.  
 Indo-European Telegraph Deptt.  
 Eastern Extension Australia and  
 China Telegraph Co.

- (b) **In Burma.**  
 Moulmein & Rangoon                      Siamese Administration  
 Bhamo    Chinese Administration

**NOTE :** Madras was working directly with Colombo and was also considered as the Frontier office for Ceylon.

All the Foreign telegrams originating in India or Burma had to pass through one or the other of these Frontier Offices.

### ***Routes for Transmission***

The sender of the message was having an option to prescribe the specific route direction for the transmission of his message and had to prepay in cash or stamps accordingly. In case, if the sender mark the telegram 'Best Route' or 'Cheapest Route', the rates were collected accordingly and the department had an option to transmit the message by the best working route.

We reproduce below Rules relating to route option sanctioned by the Governor General in Council under Gazette Notification, Commerce and Industries Department, No 6975-137, dated September 16, 1909 :

- RULE-246 -** *The different Routes by which telegrams may be transmitted are indicated by concise directions in the Tariff Tables published in Section IV*
- RULE-247 -** *The Sender who wishes to prescribe the Route should write the corresponding direction on the telegram. The Sender may specify the actual Route to be followed or mark the telegram **Best Route** or **Cheapest Route**. Indications as to Route are transmitted free (Rule 215).*
- RULE-248 -** *When the Sender has prescribed the Route to be followed, the Telegraph Offices concerned are bound to carry out his wishes, unless the Route named be interrupted, or transmission by it seems likely to involve serious delay, in which cases the sender cannot raise any objection to the employment of another route.*
- RULE-249 -** *If, in the contrary, the Sender does not prescribe the Route, the telegram is sent by the best working route for which sufficient charges have been received. Where the charges are the same, the Offices where Route diverge will decide by which to forward the telegram.*

We also reproduce below extracts from Section IV for additional information :

### **SECTION IV - CHARGES FOR FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.**

- NOTE-I -** *The charges given in this section for telegrams to Europe or for telegrams transiting Europe to America, or any other country, are via Indo or Eastern. Private telegrams can also be sent via Turkey and the charges by that Route from India or Burma are two annas less than those via Indo except where special rates are given. State telegrams to countries in Europe or transiting Europe are generally sent via Indo or Eastern.*
- NOTE - VII -** *The abbreviations noted below should be used to indicate the routes in Foreign telegrams in order to reduce the number of signalling operations. When the Sender has specified the route, it should be abbreviated as far as possible*

information about 'Reply Paid Message' as well as name of Telegraph Office. Probably from early 1857, new receipts similar to Plate-6.1(a) in printed information but completely plain on backside were introduced. The receipts were printed on ordinary paper.

The receipts with 'Coat of Arms' printed on backside were in use during the period 1855-56. It is very difficult to trace out the justification behind the printing of 'Coat of Arms' on the backside of the receipt. Perhaps one of the possible reasons might be the security measure to prevent the use of duplicate receipts. More precisely it seems to be a torn off receipt from the similar receipt available on the left side as is presently done in case of Government receipts.

The name of the department was changed to 'GOVT. ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPT.' in the later part of 1858 and new receipts were introduced as shown in Plate-6.3.

### ***Receipts for Service Messages***

Till 1860, for official messages, no receipts were issued for which the Telegraph Rule-II of 1855 reads as under :

**RULE-II** - *Service Messages shall be charged for at the same rate as private Messages, but the former shall be paid for by a transfer in account, covered by a proforma receipt, without cash payment.*

But with the increasing use of telegraphic facility in official matters, it was decided to introduce separate receipts for the Service messages to maintain separate head of account. It was introduced with effect from September 1, 1860. The receipt with sub-title 'SERVICE MESSAGE' is shown in Plate-6.4. Except this, receipts were similar to receipt shown in Plate-6.3 in all respect. This is concluded from the following two Rules published during 1862:

**RULE-XLI** - *Service messages from all public functionaries must be paid for in cash prior to despatch, the rates being the same for distance and number of words as those charged to private individuals.\* (\* The only exceptions to this rule are enumerated in special printed instructions issued to each Office.)*

**RULE-XLIII** - *The sums paid by public functionaries for the despatch of messages will be recovered from Government by the senders, in their own Departments, by contingent bills countersigned as usual.*

Thus Service messages were made chargeable and granted regular instead of proforma receipt. The amount paid for the telegrams was recovered through a contingency bill. This procedure was a sort of indirect check on the misuse of Service messages.

### ***Receipts for Provinces under Lieutenant Governorship***

The receipts issued for the three provinces namely the Punjab, the North-West Province, and the Bengal under the Lieutenant-Governorship were bit different and printed decoratively as shown in Plate-6.5. Similar decoratively printed receipts were also used in Bombay Presidency. An interesting receipt issued in the Bengal Province with overprint 'PRIVATE.' in black across the receipt is shown in Plate-6.6. Similar receipt for official messages with overprint 'SERVICE.' from same province

is shown Plate-6.7. Except these overprints, both the receipts were identical to the prevailing receipts used in other provinces. The notable difference between these two overprints *viz.* 'Private and Service', the word 'PRIVATE' is overprinted in black whereas 'SERVICE' is overprinted in red. The size of the overprint in both the case is same,  $34 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  mm including stop.

From early 1860 the department name which was till then 'ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT' was changed to 'GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT'. In mid 1864, the format as well as the size of the receipt was completely changed from its rectangular shape to the square shape. With this, a major modification in the printed information on the receipt was also introduced. The receipt was now divided into two parts, separated by a thick horizontal line followed by a thin horizontal line as shown in Plate-6.8. In the upper one third portion now only name and place of the sender as well as addressee had to be written. The payment information in the lower two third portion was made more clear and informative. The notable change made in this newly introduced receipt was the introduction of manual write up regarding the message against the printed one earlier. Now, the In charge had to write whether the message was 'Paid, Bearing, Repetition or Night' at a specific location marked as (1) on the receipt along with the type of the message i.e. Private or Service. This was made more clear by separating the type of message. Now the In charge had to write whether the message was 'Service or Private' across the receipt at a location marked as (2) on the receipt and thereby issue of separate receipt for Service messages was again abolished. The receipt is shown in Plate-6.9. Another notable feature introduced was a footnote which reads as under :

*N. B- Complaints must be accompanied by this receipt, and addressed to the Government Telegraph Complaint Office, Calcutta.*

This type of receipts was in use without any further modification in its printing format till the introduction of new 'RECEIPT CUM MESSAGE FORMS' i.e. February 1, 1869.

### ***Receipt for Peon Hire***

Though the information for the peon hire charges were incorporated in all the receipts discussed above, a separate receipt was also in use. It is presumed that such type of separate Peon Hire Notice might be issued when special delivery of the message was sought for and the charges for which were to be prepaid by the sender. Plate-6.10(a) shows one such notice whereas Plate-6.10(b) shows the same with counterfoil.

### ***Detachable Receipts***

With the introduction of new receipt cum message form as well as second series of Telegraph stamp, issue of separate receipt was abandoned. The receipt part in the newly introduced form was made more informative by incorporating a column for the date and time at which the message was tendered for transmission. The name of the sender and the addressee were now omitted from the receipt, only name of the transmitting and destine stations had to be written, as shown in Plate-6.11(a). The use of telegraph stamps on the sent message form as telegraph charge was



made compulsory and therefore every receipt issued from February 1, 1869 onwards bears half the portion of telegraph stamp duly cancelled with name and date cancellation.

As discussed earlier, from February 1, 1869, use of postage stamps were officially granted for prepayment of telegraph charges for messages tendered at Post Office in lieu of telegraph stamps. But in such cases, the Post Office registration receipt was given to the sender for the payment made. The notification issued by the Telegraph Department, Calcutta, dated December 22, 1868, very clearly specifies about the issue of such receipt which reads as under :

*3. Telegrams can be sent from out-stations by post, but they must be enclosed in registered covers. At stations where Telegraph stamps are not procurable, they may be paid for by postage stamps at the rate of seventeen annas to the rupee. In such cases, the Post Office registration receipt will take the place of the ordinary Telegraph receipt. If any telegram be received insufficiently stamped, it will be returned bearing 'to the sender.'*

We have not yet seen the said Post Office registration receipt issued instead of telegraph receipt.

From December 1, 1883 all Head and Sub-Post Offices were granted permission to receive messages where use of postage stamps was very common. Their use was also permitted at Postal Combined Offices. It is very interesting to note that when postage stamps were used for entire or partial payment, they had to be affixed entirely on the message part of the form and, therefore, the receipt given to the sender did not bear stamps or portion of stamps.

Except the receipt of earliest period of 1855-56, the receipts given to the sender during the period 1856-69 were plain on the back side. Prior to this, abstract of Rules printed on a separate sheet of paper was attached with the books containing 100 sent message forms. But it is presumed that by 1869 increasing telegraphic transactions would have encouraged the authorities to publish the abstract of Telegraph Rules on the back side of the receipts given to the sender while introducing the new 'Receipt cum Message Form' from February 1, 1869. This had two aims, first to minimize errors in writing the message on the public part by providing them the general guidelines and second, to reduce the query on the departmental side. The study of these rules reflect continuous efforts taken by the department in updating the telegraph system. The rules in general provide the information like, business hours of the Telegraph Office, some guidelines regarding how to write a message, prevailing rates of a telegram, list of holidays and rate of a telegram on holidays, mode of transmission, facilities given to the sender, legal rights of the sender as well as information for lodging a complaints. One such abstract of rules published on the back side of a receipt is shown in Plate-6.11(b).

Perhaps from early 1873, the name of the department was changed from its 'GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT' to the 'INDIAN TELEGRAPH'. With this, the printing format of the receipt again underwent a major modification as shown in Plate-6.12. The tabular format was completely eliminated and receipt was made extremely simple. Even the payment information was also omitted. Only the information regarding 'Reply' and the 'Mode of Delivery' had to be filled up. Though a

separate receipt known as 'REPLY PASS' was also in use during this period for a reply paid message, this receipt also displays whether the reply was required or not and payment for it was made or not. The 'Reply Pass' is shown in Plate-6.13(a) & 6.13(b). The receipt was further simplified in mid 1874 by the introduction of tabular format under the title 'Extra charges prepaid in cash (if any)' as shown in Plate-6.14, and was further simplified by removing the above stated tabular information leaving the space for destine station and instruction (if any) column in early 1879 as shown in Plate-6.15. The receipt of mid 1880 is same as that of 1879, but with this a new subtitle was incorporated as 'RECEIPT FOR INLAND TELEGRAM' and is printed below the department name as shown in Plate-6.16. Prior to this, the 'Receipt cum Message Form' for Foreign telegrams were printed separately on yellow coloured paper to distinguish it from the Inland Form, but subsequently they were also printed on same white paper like inland telegram forms. The foreign telegram forms are now distinguished with the subtitle 'RECEIPT FOR FOREIGN TELEGRAM'. The receipt for foreign telegrams were therefore yellow in colour prior to this as discussed above. Except this, rest of the printed information remained same. The receipts are shown in Plate-6.17.

Under the major administrative reform and with the introduction of 'Telegram Classification' on January 1, 1882, a new 'Receipt Cum Message Form' was introduced. The size of the receipt was now reduced and the tabular format for the charges reintroduced. On the backside of the receipt, extract of rules was replaced by the rate of telegrams according to the message group to popularize the newly introduced telegram classification. Another possible reason behind this was the publication of 'Telegraph Guide' which was made available to the public at a very nominal charge. The receipt is shown in Plate-6.18.

In early 1887 the printing format was again modified and information regarding charges in tabular form was completely eliminated. The size of the receipt was reduced further while length was increased making the receipt a strip form as shown in Plate-6.19.

In early 1888, a new 'Receipt cum Message Form' printed in blue coloured ink was introduced. The size of receipt was kept same as was in a strip form but the printing information was redesigned to reduce number of entries in it and also to suit the working requirements of the Postal Department. The receipt is divided in to three parts as shown in Plate-6.20. On the extreme left corner about one tenth of receipt length is now for 'Class and Number' of a telegram, whereas the rest of the length is further divided into two parts by a thin vertical line. The left part was for Post Office cancellation and message information while the remaining right part was space for telegraph stamps.

The colour of the ink for the printing was changed to reddish brown in early 1890 and further changed to black in early 1892, without making any change in the printing format, and was in use till the end of 1907. In April 1908, Stamped Embossed Telegraph Forms which were also the 'Receipt cum Message Forms' were introduced. In this form, the receipt part was bearing half portion of the embossed

## 166 : INDIAN TELEGRAPHS

stamp when torn off. As discussed earlier, regarding the issue of these embossed forms, it is a matter of debate.

### *Administrative Reform*

Under the major administrative reforms discussed earlier, it was decided to discontinue from April 1, 1908, the use of telegraph stamps in favour of postage stamps, and the printing of the 'Receipt cum Message Form.' Thus after a lapse of about 40 years, the issue of separate receipts was reintroduced. There was only one receipt now for both Inland and Foreign telegrams. The receipt is shown in Plate 6.21.

Table-6.1 gives in brief important features of the forms of receipts used between 1855 to 1914.

TABLE-6.1 REFERENCE LIST FOR TELEGRAPH RECEIPTS						
Colour Code : W - White LV - Light violet B - Buff, Y - Yellow						
Sr. No.	Type	Period	Colour of the Receipt	Size in mm	Remark	Plate No.
<b>SEPARATE RECEIPTS</b>						
Electric Telegraph Office.						
1	TR1	1855 - 1856	W	175 × 145	Coat of Arms printed on back side	6.1
2	TR2	1856 - 1858	W	185 × 145	Plain on back side	6.2
GOVT. ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPT.						
3	TR3	Mid 1858 - Mid 1863	W	175 × 125	For Private messages	6.3
4	TR4	Late 1860 - Early 1866	W	175 × 125	For Service messages	6.4
Electric Telegraphs in India						
5	TR5	1855 - 1864	B	185 × 150	Receipts for provinces under Lieutenant Governorships of Punjab	6.5
6	TR6	- do -	- do -	- do -	do-with overprint 'PRIVATE.'	6.6
7	TR7	- do -	- do -	- do -	do-with overprint 'SERVICE.'	6.7
Govt. Electric Telegraph Dept.						
8	TR8	Mid 1863 - Mid 1864	W	175 × 115	Common receipt for Private & Service messages	6.8
Government Telegraph Department.						
9	TR9	Early 1866 - 31.1.1869	W	140 × 140	- do -	6.9
<b>DETACHABLE RECEIPTS</b>						
GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.						
10	TR10	1.2.1869 - Mid 1873	W,Y	(a) 215 × 100 (b) 255 × 110 (c) 215 × 110 (d) 220 × 100	W - for Inland messages Y - for Foreign messages	6.11

**TELEGRAPH RECEIPTS : 167**

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.						
11	TR11	Early 1873- early 1874	W.Y	215 × 70	W - for Inland messages Y - for Foreign messages	6.12
Indian Telegraph.						
12	TR12	Mid 1874 - Mid 1880	W.Y	(a) 215 × 80 (b) 195 × 80 (c) 195 × 85	- do -	6.14 to 6.17
Indian Telegraphs						
13	TR13	1882 -1887	W	(a) 240 × 35 (b) 245 × 40		6.18
Indian Telegraphs.						
14	TR14	Late 1883 - Mid 1888	W	(a) 195 × 50 (b) 210 × 80 (c) 210 × 70		6.19
INDIAN TELEGRAPHS (With Govt. Coat of Arms inbetween)						
15	TR15	Early 1888 - Early 1890	W	210 × 60	Printed in blue ink	6.20
16	TR15A	Early 1890 - Early 1892	W	210 × 60	Printen in brown ink	
17	TR15B	Early 1892 - 31.3 1908	W	210 × 60	Printed in black ink	
<b>SEPARATE RECEIPT</b>						
INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.						
18	TR16	1.4. 1908 31.3.1914	W	170 × 90	Common receipt for Inland & Foreign messages	6.21
<b>RECEIPTS FOR PEON HIRE</b>						
GOVT. ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPT.						
19	TR17	Mid 1858 -31.1. 1869	W	270 × 140	Receipt for Peon Hire	6.10(a) & 6.10(b)
<b>PASS FOR REPLY PAID MESSAGES</b>						
Government Telegraph Department						
20	TR18	Mid 1860 - 1890	LV	145 × 155	Pass for Reply paid messages	6.13(a) & 6.13(b)