

Educational (1902) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No 5

DATED 2 - 1 - 02

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Thumb impressions on Medical certificates
Copy to the D.P.O., the G.O. & the S.G. In
prop. public dept issuing instructions
on the subject of medical officers obtaining
— granted to candidates for appm
leave etc, & of their verification
with the impressions in the Service books

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

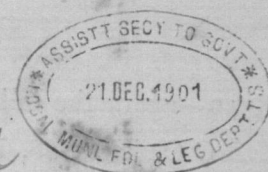
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Ed CURRENT No. 1780. 2
 Government {1901} of Madras.
 PUBLIC.

24/12/11

N. order no 5 of 2-1-02

Commenced: to the D.P.O., the
 C.G.E. and the S.G.M.



24.12.11

PH 23/12/11

Recd. 21-12- } 1901.
 Regd. 23-12- }

Enclosures
 Spare copies

To the D.P.O. 28/12/02
 C.G.E. 4/1/02
 S.G.M.

G.O., No. 1243, 12th December 1901.

DECEMBER.

Thumb impressions on medical certificates.

Issuing instructions on the subject of medical officers obtaining — granted to candidates for appointment, leave, pension, etc., and of their verification with the impressions in the service books.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers:—

G.O., No. 998, Public, dated 6th September 1899.

ABSTRACT.—Approving, as amended by Government, the form submitted by the Surgeon-General for adoption by all heads of departments when sending public servants to medical officers for medical certificates.

G.O., Mis. No. 1016, Public, dated 5th October 1901.

Read—the following letter from A. T. FORBES, Esq., I.C.S., Postmaster-General, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 2nd August 1901, No. 21166.

In forwarding herewith copies of a correspondence that passed between myself and the Director-General of the Post Office of India on the subject of examining medical officers obtaining on medical certificates the thumb impression of applicants for pension, I have the honour to inquire if Government have framed any rules on the subject.

2. I annex below copies of the notes to rules 466 and 476 of the Post Office Manual, volume III, referred to in the correspondence. It will be seen that the procedure laid down in the notes is based, as the Director-General observes, on rule 15 of the rules circulated by the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce department with their resolution No. 4294 P., dated 1st October 1898. But difficulty has been experienced on occasions by this department in getting medical officers to take thumb impressions on medical certificates. In fact, in one case, the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras forbade the Surgeon, Second District, Madras, to take finger impressions on such documents—*vide* copy of that officer's communication No. 6465, dated 3rd November 1899, which accompanies the copies of the correspondence sent for the information of Government.

“Note to rule 466 (*Medical certificates of applicants for leave*).—When an officer is sent for medical examination a brief description should be given to the medical officers, mention being made of any special distinguishing mark or other peculiarity by which the medical officer may identify the individual to be examined. In the case of non-gazetted officers, the medical officer should be asked to obtain on the medical certificate the applicant's thumb impression and this impression should be verified afterwards by the head of the office with that in the service book or descriptive statement or application certificate as the case may be.

“Note to rule 476 (*Medical certificates of applicants for an invalid pension*).—The note to rule 466 applies also to this rule.”

3. I have received from Government only the four Government orders quoted in the margin, but they contain no instructions to medical officers as regards the taking of thumb impression of applicants for appointment, leave or pension on the medical certificate.

G.O., No. 918, dated 4th December 1897.
 “ 857 “ 11th November 1898.
 “ 679 “ 2nd October 1899.
 “ 856 “ 12th December 1899.

ENCLOSURES.

From the Postmaster-General, Madras, to the Director-General of Post Office of India, dated 27th June 1901, No. 909.

I have the honour to state that when examining medical officers are requested to obtain on medical certificates the thumb impression of applicants for pension with reference to the note to rule 475, volume III, of the Post Office Manual, they not infrequently decline to comply with the request in the absence of instructions on the subject in the Civil Service Regulations and ask for the authority under which they should do so.

2. The Surgeon, Second District, Madras, who granted an invalid certificate to the applicant whose pension papers were submitted to you with this office letter No. 913, dated 25th August 1900, was specially requested to obtain the impression on the certificate, but he refused to comply under the orders of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras. A copy of the Surgeon-General's communication will be found in the pension case. I however annex a copy for ready reference. It will be seen that the Surgeon-General forbids the practice of taking finger impressions on medical certificates.

3. I have another recent case before me in which the District Medical officer, Nellore, declined at first to take the impression on the certificate and wished to know under what rule he was required to do so. On the rule in the Post Office Manual being quoted for his information by the Divisional Superintendent, he assented.

4. There is a still more recent case, that of T. Kishnasamy, late Deputy Postmaster, Calicut, whose pension papers were submitted under this office letter No. 899, dated 26th June 1901. The invalid certificate granted by the Surgeon, Second District, Madras, had to be sent to your office without the thumb impression of the applicant on it.

5. Under the circumstances I suggest, for your consideration, the desirability of getting inserted in the Civil Service Regulations a note for the guidance of all District Medical officers corresponding with the rule in the manual.

From Captain C. DONOVAN, I.M.S., Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Surgeon, Second District, Madras, dated 3rd November 1899, No. 6465.

[REFERENCE.—Invaliding certificate No. 68, dated the 23rd ultimo.]

Returned duly countersigned.

2. The Surgeon-General forbids the practice of taking finger impressions either on the medical certificate or on fly-leaves attached thereto.

From the Director-General of Post Office of India, to the Postmaster-General, Madras, dated 16th July 1901, No. 1298.

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 909, dated the 27th June 1901, suggesting, in view of the difficulty experienced on occasions in your circle of getting medical officers to take thumb impressions on medical certificates as required by the notes to rules 466 and 476 of the Post Office Manual, volume III, 3rd edition, that the Government of India be moved to include instructions on the subject in the Civil Service Regulations.

2. In reply, I am to say that the manual rules cited are based on rule 15 of the rules circulated by the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce department with their resolution No. 4294 P., dated the 1st October 1898. A copy of this resolution with a copy of the rules referred to is appended, from which it will be seen that Government recommended the adoption of the system of thumb impressions for the identification of pensioners in the civil department in British India generally without imposing it on local Governments as an obligation.

3. In these circumstances, it seems necessary before any steps are taken in the direction suggested by you that inquiries should be made as to whether or not the system has been adopted by the local Governments and Administrations within your jurisdiction, and I am to ask that this may be now done and a further report submitted, accompanied by a copy of the rules (if any) which have been framed on the subject.

Order—Mis. No. 1016, Public, dated 5th October 1901.

The Postmaster-General, Madras, will be furnished with a copy of G.O., No. 918, Pension, dated 4th December 1897, which contains the rules in force in this presidency for the record of the finger prints of Government servants and pensioners. No

provision has been made therein for recording on medical certificates the thumb impressions of candidates for appointment, leave or pension. This point will now be considered separately.

2. A copy of G.O., No. 998, Public, dated 6th September 1899, which prescribes a form in which requisitions should be made on medical officers for medical certificates, will also be supplied to the Postmaster-General.

(True Extract.)

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Postmaster-General, Madras.

READ—also letter from the Surgeon-General, dated 20th November 1901, No. 470.

ORDER—No. 1243, Public, dated 12th December 1901.

The Government considers that a rule similar to that contained in the note to rule 466 of the Post Office Manual should be introduced into this presidency. G.O., No. 998, Public, dated 6th September 1899, directs that the left thumb impression of an applicant for appointment, leave, pension, etc., should be taken on the descriptive roll which is forwarded by heads of offices to medical officers. The medical officer, in order to satisfy himself as to the identity of the candidate, must obtain his left thumb impression and compare it with that in the descriptive roll. In future, the verification will be left to the head of the office concerned. The left thumb impression of a candidate will no longer be taken on the descriptive roll, but the medical officer before whom he appears will be required to obtain it on the medical certificate. This impression will afterwards be verified by the head of the office with that in the applicant's service book. In the case of applicants for appointment, no service book will be in existence, but, if the candidate is successful, a service book for him will at once be opened, and the thumb impression taken therein will be compared with that on the medical certificate.

(True Extract.)

Foray ^{Chief} Under Secretary to Government.

To all Departments of the Secretariat. (educational)
„ all Heads of Departments under the Chief Secretary.
„ the Postmaster-General, Madras.

Ed. A. D. Xavier.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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