

Local & Munl. (1895.) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 259L.

DATED 9th Feby. 1895.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspection duties of Medical and Sanitary Officers.

Communicating to all Local Boards and Municipal Councils G.O., Public Department, issuing instructions for the guidance of Medical and Sanitary officers in regard to their duties of inspection of jails and other institutions.

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BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

R. 181.

Public Department

Erratum

In the last line of paragraph 7 of G.O. 24th January 1895, No 57, for the words "to take medical charge of" substitute the words "to take both administrative and medical charge of"

Fort St. George,
15th February 1895.

for Chief Secretary.

To

The Surgeon General
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Revenue Department.
" Local & Municipal Department.
" Judicial Department.
" Financial Department.

Read the following papers:—

24TH JANUARY 1895, No. 57, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers:—

G.O., dated 9th July 1894, No. 1699, Judicial.

Read—the following papers:—

Petition from Bapu Mudaliar, Tanjore, dated —.

From the Inspector-General of Prisons, dated 20th June 1894, No. 3483.

12. I beg, moreover, to take this opportunity of inviting the attention of Government to the present system of district medical administration. It is quite impossible that District Jails (or any other head-quarter institution) should be administered efficiently so long as District Medical officers have to spend fifteen days a month in camp. There are, I believe, forty out-hospitals or dispensaries in the Madura district, each of which has to be inspected twice a year. It appears that the Medical officer is also required to visit outlying stations at other times to inspect or locate rain-gauges and he is further required to look after village sanitation and vaccination. Under such a system it is inevitable that the bulk of jail administration shall fall into the hands of the jailors, and when the jailor is unreliable irregularities will follow. The occurrence of this case, in which a considerable defalcation was only just prevented, will, I hope, lead to the subject of district medical administration being considered and to the question of the best available remedy being remitted to the Surgeon-General.

Order—dated 9th July 1894, No. 1699, Judicial.

3. Paragraph 12 of the Inspector-General's letter will be considered in the Public Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Public Department.

No. 1466.

Referred to the Surgeon-General for remarks with advertence to paragraph 3 of the order.

OOTACAMUND,
18th July 1894.

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 31st August 1894, No. 468.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 1466, dated 18th July 1894, on G.O., No. 1699, Judicial, dated 9th July 1894, herewith returned as requested, the Inspector-General of Prisons invites the attention of Government to the present system of district medical administration and considers it is quite impossible that District Jails (or any other head-quarter institution) should be administered efficiently so long as District Medical officers have to spend fifteen days a month in camp for inspection duties generally. He points out that under such a system it is inevitable that the bulk of jail administration will fall into the hands of the jailors, and when the jailor is unreliable irregularities will follow and instances the occurrence referred to in Government Order at Madura.

2. On a reference to G.O., No. 391, Public, dated 22nd February 1883, it will be seen that Government considered this phase of the subject very fully and issued the orders under which District Medical and Sanitary officers now work.

3. The following additional inspection duties have been added since the publication of the above orders:—

All the rain-gauges in districts under G.O., No. 16, Revenue, dated 9th January 1891.

At least twenty inspections of villages each half-year under G.O., No. 2785 L., dated 6th November 1891.

Factories under Notification I in *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 20th May 1892; also see G.O., No. 1621, Judicial, dated 28th June 1894.

4. I have ascertained from Medical officers concerned the time they were absent from their stations during the year 1892 and 1893, and it will be seen by the marginal statement that most of them were absent for too long periods to be able to give the attention to their head-quarter duties which I consider most desirable. Those marked with an asterisk have a District Jail at head-quarters.

District.	Period of absence from head-quarters during past two years.
* Bellary	205 days.
* Berhampur	205 "
Coimbatore	130 "
* Cuddalore	82 "
* Cuddapah	10 months 18 "
* Madura	9 " 12 "
* Nellore	193 "
Rajahmundry	98 "
Salem	189 "
* Tanjore	138 "
* Tinnevely	120 "
Trichinopoly	77 "
* Vellore	264 "
Vizagapatam	53 "
Chingleput	5½ months.
Mangalore	223 days.

It will be noted that in Cuddapah district the Medical officer spent ten months and eighteen days away from head-quarters in 1892 and 1893. In G.O., Nos. 1210 and 1211, dated 2nd July 1894, Local and Municipal, paragraph 13, he is commended for having visited 162 places during 1893. Yet the annual report only shows 50 major and 421 minor operations performed in 1893. The hospital work during 1893 shows only an average daily sick of 18-11 in an hospital with 32 beds available. The Inspector-General of Prisons also specially brought to the notice of my predecessor the high mortality in the Cuddapah Jail during 1893, which possibly would not have been so high if the District Surgeon had remained more at head-quarters.

5. The Inspector-General of Prisons' statement that in the absence of the District Medical and Sanitary officer the administration falls to the jailor is scarcely in accordance with the fact that the Assistant Surgeon is Joint Superintendent in accordance with paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 391, Public, dated 22nd February 1883, and I know that certain Medical officers require their attendance at the jails at least once a week in order that they may know all about their administration. This rule I consider should be carried out generally and it would be most desirable that these officers should in future be gazetted as Joint Superintendents whenever they are doing duty in a station where there is a District Jail.

6. I have consulted the most experienced Medical officers in civil employ and am convinced that too much of the time of District Sanitary and Medical officers, especially in such important centres as Madura, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Nellore and Vizagapatam, is devoted to administrative work to the detriment of their purely professional work in their hospitals and medical institutions and amongst the officials and inhabitants of their head-quarter stations for which duties they were primarily appointed, while it is most desirable that the Collector should have a trained Medical and Sanitary officer to advise him and to administer their own duties; such duties should be made so as to interfere as little as possible with the primary ones. I look on the medical and surgical work done in a head-quarter hospital by the Medical officer himself as most important in showing the people practically what medical science can do and thus gaining their trust and confidence. The management and administration of this hospital forms the standard to which the other hospitals and dispensaries in the district work up to. I consider it was a desirable decision of Government, taking all the difficulties into consideration, placing such officers in administrative charge of District Jails, but such duties ought not to occupy the most of their time. The office work of administering all the district hospitals and dispensaries is very heavy in some districts, and I am doing all in my power to diminish it as much as possible. The bi-annual inspection of hospitals and dispensaries which takes them a great deal away from their head-quarter is not, in my opinion, necessary. While it is most desirable that these officers should know the institutions and the subordinates and servants working in them, I do not consider a bi-annual inspection necessary; moreover, as any recommendations made which entail expense have to be budgeted for, which is only done once a year, it would appear sufficient to hold an inspection once a year which should be thorough, which I will arrange for departmentally. The Sanitary Commissioner and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, both highly trained and experienced Medical officers, now visit these hospitals and dispensaries on their tours. I consider that they should record any remarks on the administration they consider desirable in the visitors' book for the information of the Presidents of local bodies and the District Medical officer, and in the few cases of Government institutions—jail and police hospitals—a copy of their remarks should be submitted for my information and orders.

It is most desirable that Medical officers should, when they consider it desirable, make a surprise inspection of such institutions.

The duty of making special inspections where there is excessive sickness or epidemic diseases prevalent and the supervision of the sanitary and medical arrangements for fairs and festivals must continue to be carried out.

The duties of making inspections of the sanitary state of villages, rain-gauges, vital statistics should, I consider, be confined to those villages or towns where they or their Assistant Surgeons inspect hospitals or dispensaries. If it is at all considered advisable to have other villages inspected as contemplated by G.O., No. 2785 L., dated 6th November 1891, I consider the District Medical officer should depute his Assistant Surgeon to report on them.

The late order of Government in G.O., No. 1177, Local and Municipal, dated 26th June 1894, directing that before the budget estimates are completed that the District Medical and Sanitary officers should have an opportunity of reviewing them, will make it their duty to see that any recommendations made by the Sanitary Commissioner, by them, or by their Assistants through them will be provided for as far as funds can be made available, will, in my opinion, give them great power for good both as regards sanitation generally and the administration of the hospitals and dispensaries. There is no doubt that if Government could see its way to increase the Deputy Sanitary Commissioners in the Presidency that more thorough work could be done if there was money to carry out their suggestions. The inspection of vital statistics and the inspection of rain-gauges might very well be left generally to the Revenue officials (Tahsildars). The District Medical officer should have the power to depute his Assistant to make any inspection he considered necessary out of the regular one, and in large districts, such as Madura, or where there are long distances, to travel over which take time, the District Medical officer should require his Assistant to make one-half the inspections one year while he did the other and changing out the year after.

7. To remedy the present state of affairs, I would propose—

(1) The District Medical and Sanitary officers should only be required to carry out their inspection of hospitals and dispensaries once a year. That in large districts, in districts where travelling occupies a considerable time, they should be permitted to depute their Assistants to inspect one-half of the hospitals and dispensaries during the year, which they should themselves visit the next year.

(2) That the Sanitary Commissioner and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner should inspect such hospitals and dispensaries on their tours and record in the visitors' book any remarks they consider should be brought to the notice of the Presidents or Chairmen of local bodies, the District Medical officer, or the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

(3) That the inspections of the District Medical and Sanitary officers should be confined to the hospitals and dispensaries and to the general sanitation, vaccination, vital statistics and the rain-gauges of such towns or villages as have these institutions.

(4) That District Medical and Sanitary officers should have the power to visit any places where excessive sickness or epidemic disease prevails or where it is necessary to supervise or advise on the sanitary or medical arrangements for fairs or festivals, &c.

(5) That District Medical and Sanitary officers should have the power to detail their Assistants to make any such similar inspections they consider necessary and that the reports should be submitted to the officials concerned through them with their own remarks.

(6) The Assistant Surgeon in towns where there is a District Jail should be designated the Joint Superintendent, and the Medical officer should require his presence at the jail at least once a week while he is in head-quarters in order that he may be thoroughly acquainted with its working and the sick in hospital.

No. 1800.

Referred to the Local and Municipal Department for remarks.

7th September 1894.

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

Endorsement in the Local and Municipal Department, dated 21st November 1894, No. 1315.

ORDER—dated 24th January 1895, No. 57, Public.

In their letters read above the Inspector-General of Prisons and the Surgeon-General both give it as their opinion that the touring and inspection that is required of District Medical and Sanitary officers precludes the possibility of their devoting adequate attention either to the jails or the medical institutions in their head-quarters.

2. Under existing orders these officers are expected to visit all hospitals and dispensaries in their districts as frequently as is consistent with their other duties (G.O., dated 22nd February 1883, No. 391, Public), to report upon the sanitary condition of twenty villages each half-year (G.O., dated 6th November 1891, No. 2785 L.), to inspect all rain-gauges in their districts once a year (G.O., dated 9th January 1891, No. 16, Revenue), to supervise vaccination work, and to ascertain that the rules laid down for sanitary arrangements at factories are observed.

3. The Government is disposed to concur in the opinion that the frequent absences from head-quarters which these duties involve are incompatible with the satisfactory performance of the work to be done there, and considers that it is advisable that some of this inspection work should be dispensed with or transferred to officers who could carry it out with less administrative inconvenience and that the performance of other parts of it may be facilitated by employing to greater effect than at present the services of the Assistant Surgeons who have been attached to all districts except Nilgiris.

4. The inspection once a year of all medical institutions within their districts which has usually been required of District Medical and Sanitary officers cannot, in the opinion of Government, be with safety dispensed with, for these officers are at present the only professional advisers of local bodies in matters affecting the medical aspect of these institutions. They will, however, be permitted in future to depute their Assistants to visit such of the larger institutions as require to be inspected more frequently than once a year. All Revenue Divisional officers should also consider it to be a part of their duty to annually visit all hospitals and dispensaries within their charges and to record remarks upon their general condition and popularity in the visitors' books, and these remarks should continue, as at present, to be despatched at once by the medical subordinates in charge to the District Medical and Sanitary officers and the Presidents of the Taluk Boards concerned. The Sanitary Commissioner and his Deputy will also be requested to visit such of these institutions as are situated in towns to which their duties may lead them and similarly to record their remarks upon the same aspects of their working.

5. The Government considers that the inspection by District Medical and Sanitary officers of large numbers of outlying villages has in the past been productive of but little substantial benefit. It will be sufficient if in future the municipalities and unions in each district are annually visited and reported upon either by the District Medical and Sanitary officer or his Assistant. Assistant Surgeons may in addition be deputed in the place of the District Medical and Sanitary officer to supervise sanitary and medical arrangements at fairs and festivals and at places where outbreaks of disease have occurred.

6. The duty of inspecting rain-gauges, which are usually situated at Tahsildars' or Deputy Tahsildars' head-quarters, may be suitably transferred to Revenue Divisional officers. Instructions to this effect will issue in the Revenue Department in modification of those in paragraph 3 of G.O., dated 9th January 1891, No. 16, Revenue. The necessity of assisting District Medical and Sanitary officers by all means in their power in the promotion of sanitation in rural tracts and vaccination, and the importance of scrutinizing the registration of vital statistics, should also be impressed upon all divisional officers in communicating to them the orders in paragraph 4 *supra*.

7. The Surgeon-General's proposals to gazette Assistant Surgeons as Joint Superintendents of Jails does not commend itself to Government, but District Medical and Sanitary officers should require them to attend the jails at least once a week when they are in head-quarters in order that they may so familiarize themselves with the details of the administration of these institutions that they may be qualified to take medical charge of them during the absence of their superior officers.

8. His Excellency the Governor in Council anticipates that under this order considerable relief will be afforded to District Sanitary and Medical officers in the matter of touring. It will rest with the Surgeon-General, by careful scrutiny of the tour statements of these officers, which it is presumed are submitted to him from time to time, to see that they devote a proper proportion of their time to their work at head-quarters.

(True Extract.)

Francis

Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.

- " Sanitary Commissioner.
- " Revenue Department.
- " Local and Municipal Department.
- " Judicial Department.
- " Financial Department (for information).

Erd. C. A. Manisawmy.

Govt. of {1895} Madras.

PUBLIC.

PR
P.S.

Order 9-2-95 No. 259 L.
Communicated to all Local

Boards and Municipal Councils.

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Issued

Recd. 31-1-95

Encl.

G.O., 24th January 1895, No. 57.

JANUARY.

Inspection duties of Medical and Sanitary Officers.

Issuing instructions for the guidance of Medical and Sanitary officers in regard to their duties of inspection of jails and other institutions,

(with order)

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Revenue Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Judicial Department.
" Financial Department (for information).

ORDER—dated 9th February 1895, No. 259 L., Local and Municipal.
Communicated to all Local Boards and Municipal Councils.
(True Extract.)

for Chief Secretary.

To all Presidents of District Boards.
" Chairmen of Municipal Councils.

Exd. C. M. Brisson.

both
adminis-
trative
and

Gobt. of {1895} Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

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25/2/95

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G.O., 9th Feb. 1895, No. 259 L.

FEBRUARY.

Inspection Duties of Medical and
Sanitary Officers.

Communicating to all Local Boards and Muni-
cipal Councils Government Order, Public Depart-
ment, issuing instructions for the guidance of
Medical and Sanitary officers in regard to their
duties of inspection of jails and other institutions

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18 No.

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 15

FURTHER PAPER, No.

OF 15

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LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

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9. 2. 95

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LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

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Despatched in print. 2/3/95

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Inspection duties of Medical and Sanitary Officers

Communicating to all Local Boards and Municipal Councils G.D. Bd. issuing instructions for the guidance of Medical and Sanitary Officers in regard to their duties of inspection of jails and other institutions.

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