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Marine (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 855-1898
DATED 10 October 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Allowances to Subordinate Medical Officers on
Plague duty

From: Lt Col Dept Communicating
Certain Correspondence regarding the grant of
and regulating the allowances of Hospital
Assistants on plague duty, communicated to
the Principal Officer.

17/10/98

Government { 1898 } of Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Regd.

ed. } 1898.
gd. }

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1153 P., 23rd September 1898.

No. 855 March 10 October 1871
Communicated

Communicated
to the Presidency Port

SEPTEMBER.

officer

C.S.

ALP

12-10-88

The PPO is the index 2 15/10/98

Allowances to Subordinate Medical Officers on Plague Duty.

Communicating, with remarks, to the Surgeon-General, the Accountant-General, the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, and all Collectors, letter from the Government of India forwarding copy of correspondence regarding the grant of —; and regulating the allowances of Hospital Assistants on plague duty.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From R. NATHAN, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Medical), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated Simla, 20th August 1898, No. 1125.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin regarding the grant of allowances to medical officers for plague duties.

From the Government of the Punjab, No. 692, dated the 18th April 1898, and enclosure.
To the Government of the Punjab, No. 1123, dated the 20th August 1898.

ENCLOSURES.

From H. J. MAYNARD, Esq., Junior Secretary to Government, Punjab and its Dependencies, Home (Medical and Sanitary), to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Lahore, 18th April 1898, No. 692.

I am directed to forward a copy of the correspondence marginally noted regarding the grant to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám, on inspection duty at the Kálka Railway Station, of a plague deputation allowance of Rs. 2 per diem, under the terms of Mr. Nathan's letter No. 11-Sanitary—1157, dated 29th March 1897, for the consideration of the Government of India.

Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, No. 3168, dated 7th September 1897.
Punjab Government letter to Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, No. 1866, dated 11th November 1897.
Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals' letter No. 119, dated 12th January 1898.

and to convey the following remarks for India.

2. With effect from the afternoon of the 25th August 1897 Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám, Sanitary Officer, Kálka, has been employed, *in addition to his own duties*, on the medical inspection of passengers arriving at the Kálka Railway Station. Three trains arrive at Kálka each day, the earliest at 5-15 A.M. and the latest at 20-15 (=8-15 P.M.).

3. In Mr. Hewett's letter No. 668, dated 23rd June 1897, it was observed that "the Government of India intended the allowances to be granted only to officers employed exclusively and expressly on plague duty on account more especially of the risks of that duty." It was added that the Government of India were "at present inclined to the opinion that the allowance should only be granted to Subordinate Medical Officers employed at railway or other inspection stations, and such officers have presumably been expressly deputed to plague duty, and would therefore be eligible for the allowance under existing orders." This letter was written in answer to my letters Nos. 81 S. and 132 S., dated respectively the 28th May and the 3rd June 1897, which represented that very few Medical Officers had at that time been employed exclusively on plague work, and suggested that the orders on the subject should be so framed as to allow of the grant of the allowance in cases where this appeared to the Local Government to be desirable, even to officers who were not exclusively employed on plague duty. The letter indicated the willingness of the Government of India to consider the question further, but invited in the first place an estimate of the extra expenditure which the concession would involve. It arrived

at a time when, owing to the diminution in the virulence of the disease, the number of inspections was being considerably diminished, and the Government of India were informed in my letter No. 1264 S., dated 27th August 1897, that the class of officers only partially employed on plague duty had practically ceased to exist, and that the Lieutenant-Governor therefore withdrew the proposal under discussion, more especially as, in any case, he would not have been prepared to suggest that any ruling granting a deputation allowance to officers of that class should have retrospective effect. The case of Bhagat Rám came up for orders after the date of this letter.

4. It would, I am to say, apparently be open to the Lieutenant-Governor to secure some additional emolument to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám by declaring him appointed to special duty in addition to his ordinary duties and granting him a deputation allowance, or by giving him an honorarium under article 89, Civil Service Regulations, or a local allowance under article 187. All these methods would, however, he thinks, involve something of an evasion of the orders which have already been cited, and he prefers therefore to refer the case for the consideration of the Government of India, the rather that the present appears to him to be a favourable opportunity of ascertaining the principles on which, in the opinion of the Government of India, the plague deputation allowances, admissible to various classes of Medical Officers employed in one way or another on duties connected with the detection, prevention and treatment of the disease, should be regulated.

5. At the present time those duties vary widely in character, from the actual treatment of the sick in hospital, and itineration in actually infected or suspected areas, to the conduct of inspections at places more or less remote from the scene of danger, and the supervision of sanitary precautions in places which are known not to have been infected up to the present time. Where an officer is engaged on the actual treatment of the sick there can be no doubt that he is entitled to the allowance. Where he is engaged merely on preventive sanitary work at a distance from the scene of the actual outbreak, it seems equally clear that he is not entitled to a plague allowance, though it is possible that he may be entitled under ordinary rules, without regard to the existence of plague in the Province or elsewhere in India, to some other allowance on account of additional or exceptionally arduous duties performed, or for some other valid reason. It is in the case of itinerating and inspecting officers that doubts are apt to arise. The Government of India orders appear to contemplate something else beside special risk of infection as a ground for the grant of allowances, for they assume that the allowances should be given to Inspecting Medical Officers expressly deputed to this work, even though (as must obviously be the case when the inspections are conducted at a distance from the scene of the outbreak) it does not expose those who do it to any appreciable danger, and the Lieutenant-Governor has therefore a difficulty in determining the principles which should be applied.

6. Sir Mackworth Young's own view, after a reconsideration of this subject, is that the plague allowances admissible to Medical Officers should be given only in cases where the duty done by them involves the risk of contraction of the disease. Other allowances may be admissible to them where there is no such risk, but these should be given in accordance with ordinary financial rules and precedents which would be equally applicable if their duties were in no way connected with the existence of plague.

7. The effect of the adoption of this principle will be that Inspecting Medical Officers will only in very rare instances, if ever, be entitled to a plague allowance, though they may, as in the case of Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám, be entitled to some other allowance of a different kind. The application of the rule to the itinerating officers will be somewhat more difficult, for in some cases these officers are touring about where plague may be discovered at any time, and they will be expected to deal with slightly infected villages before the disease has developed sufficiently to require them to be made over to the separate executive staff which arranges for the evacuation, the establishment of cordons and disinfection prior to the return of the inhabitants, while in other, though fewer cases, the chances of the itinerating staff coming into actual contact with the disease are comparatively small. Probably, however, these itinerating Medical Officers will, as a rule, be entitled to plague allowance if the proposed test of claims be adopted.

8. If these views on the subject of allowances for work done by Medical Officers in connection with plague are accepted, they would take effect from the date on which the Government of India signified its approval of them, arrangements being made that from that date only those officers whose work the Lieutenant-Governor considered to satisfy the prescribed test should be notified as on plague duty and so entitled to draw the allowance.

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India (Home Department—Medical), to the Junior Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, Medical and Sanitary Department, dated Simla, 20th August 1898, No. 1123.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 692, dated the 18th April 1898, submitting, for the orders of the Government of India, the question of the grant of a plague deputation allowance of Rs. 2 per diem to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám, employed on inspection duty at the Kálka Railway station, in addition to his own duties as Sanitary Officer, Kálka.

2. In view of the intention of the Government of India, expressed in the letter from this office, No. 668, dated the 23rd June 1897, that the grant of plague allowances should be confined to officers employed exclusively and expressly on plague duty on account more especially of the risks of that duty, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor did not feel justified in exercising his powers under the Civil Service Regulations to secure to Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám some additional emolument for the extra work thrown upon him, and has accordingly referred the matter for the consideration of the Government of India. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the same time desires to ascertain the principles on which, in the opinion of the Government of India, the plague deputation allowances admissible to various classes of Medical Officers employed in one way or another on duties connected with the detection, prevention and treatment of the disease should be regulated.

3. In paragraph 6 of your letter it is said that in Sir Mackworth Young's opinion the plague allowances admissible to Medical Officers should be given only in cases where the duty done by them involves the risk of contracting the disease, and it is understood that the Lieutenant-Governor intends that, if such risk exists, the allowance shall be granted to every officer whether wholly or only partly employed on plague work.

4. In reply I am to say that the adoption of this proposal would involve a complete alteration in the orders which now regulate the grant of allowances for plague duty, and the Governor-General in Council does not consider such a change necessary or desirable. Those orders provide adequately for the remuneration of all officers wholly employed on plague duty, and the concessions in regard to leave granted by the Finance Department Resolutions marginally noted afford, in the opinion of the Government of India, a suitable reward in the case of officers of the higher grades of the services employed on plague work, in addition to their ordinary duties. These concessions, however, will be of little practical benefit to Subordinate Medical Officers so employed, and in these circumstances the Governor-General in Council agrees to the grant to them of a local allowance under Article 38 (a), Civil Service Regulations. It should be subject to two restrictions, viz., that the allowance should in no case exceed in amount the deputation allowance authorized under Article 98 of the Civil Service Regulations, and that, it should be given only to officers whose additional plague work, such as that of the medical inspection of passengers by road or railway is entirely separate from and outside the sphere of their ordinary duties, and not to officers whose ordinary and legitimate work, such as that of attending on the sick in hospital, has been increased owing to the occurrence of plague.

No. 5047 P., dated the 15th November 1897.
No. 2852 P., dated the 29th June 1898.

5. I am to suggest that Assistant Surgeon Bhagat Rám's case may be disposed of in accordance with these orders.

ORDER—No. 1153 P., dated 23rd September 1898.

Communicated to the Surgeon-General, Accountant-General, President, Municipal Commission, Madras, and all Collectors.

2. The allowances of a Hospital Assistant doing plague work will be regulated as follows:—

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| (a) When deputed to a distance from the scene of his ordinary work. | (i) To do light plague duty such as inspection of passengers at the railway station. | RS. 10 a month. |
| | (ii) To attend on plague patients .. | 15 .. |
| (b) When required to do additional plague work, such as the inspection of passengers by road and railway, which is entirely separate from and outside the sphere of the ordinary duties. | | Local allowance not exceeding one-fifth of the salary. |

No extra allowance is admissible in the case of officers whose ordinary and legitimate work, such as that of attending on the sick in hospital, has been increased owing to the occurrence of plague.

(True Extract.)

J. P. Hewett
for Secretary to Government.

To the Plague Commissioner.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the Accountant-General.
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" all Collectors (A, C, F, J, K, L).

Copy to the Financial Department.
" " Public Department
" " Marine Department.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.

5047 P. 15 Nov 1897

Marine Dept

in name of

Government (1898) of Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1898. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 1153 P., 23rd September 1898.

*No 855 hms of 10-10-98
Commr. to P.P.O.*

SEPTEMBER.

(Ld) A.S.R.

The P.P.O.

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Copy to the Financial Department.
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