

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
80.	406	Mar.	11.5.98				

Pensions.

Recording letter from the Government of India forwarding a copy of the despatches on the subject of the grant of — to the families of officers dying of plague contracted in the discharge of duties connected with plague, and inviting attention to the importance of exercising great discretion in the recommendations that may be made by the local authorities in that behalf.

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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 (Sanitary—Plague), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated Calcutta, 20th January 1899, No. 272.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy of the despatches noted in the margin on the subject of the grant of pensions to the families of officers dying of plague contracted in the discharge of duties connected with plague.

2. I am to invite special attention to paragraph 4 of the despatch of the 17th November 1898, in which the Secretary of State urges the importance of the exercise of great discretion by the local authorities in the recommendations which may be made by them in cases of this nature. His Lordship observes that it is desirable to give no encouragement to an impression that duty connected with the plague involves greater risks or is deserving of more favourable treatment than attendance in the infectious wards of a hospital or in a camp afflicted with cholera, which is accepted as part of the officer's ordinary duty. I am to say that every case in which a recommendation is made for the grant of a pension to the family of an officer who dies of plague contracted whilst on plague duty should be carefully considered by the Governor in Council in conformity with the orders of the Secretary of State, and should be submitted for the previous sanction of the Government of India.

ENCLOSURES.

DESPATCH from the Government of India, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated Simla, 29th September 1898, No. 299.

We have the honour to address Your Lordship on the subject of the grant of pensions to the families of officers dying of plague contracted in the discharge of duties connected with plague.

2. With our Finance and Commerce despatch, No. 143, dated the 19th May last, we transmitted to Your Lordship a copy of our Home Secretary's telegram, No. 1203, dated 5th April 1897, authorizing the Government of Bombay to consider Police officers who meet their death through plague, contracted in the discharge of duties connected with plague, as killed in execution of duty attended with extraordinary bodily risk within the meaning of articles 781 and 782 of the Civil Service Regulations, and to act upon this interpretation. In subsequent correspondence with the Local Government we explained that the orders of 5th April 1897 were not intended to apply to the case of persons other than Police officers, but we expressed our willingness to consider the question of the payment of compensation to the families of other Government officers in a similar position in life who are brought into contact with plague by the direct orders of the Government, if such cases were specially reported for our orders.

3. The Government of Bombay have submitted several applications for our favourable consideration under the above orders, and we have sanctioned the grant of family pensions in the following cases :—

(1) A pension of Rs. 7-8-0 a month to the surviving son of the late Mr. Tahilram Chainrai. The deceased was second assistant master of the Anglo-Vernacular school at Kotri in Sind, and was posted to the plague camp at that place to assist in the disinfection of clothing, &c. He is said to have worked cheerfully and fearlessly, and is believed to have contracted the disease in the execution of his plague duty. He was in receipt of pay at the rate of Rs. 15 a month at the time of his death, and his family were left in great poverty.

(2) A pension of Rs. 5 a month each to the widow of the late Mr. Krishnaji Ballal Chapekar and to the widow of the late Mr. Kasinath Wasudev Bhagvat. These officers were both revenue subordinates, and were employed as plague inspectors in the city of Sholapur, a duty which brought them into daily contact with cases of plague. They are both reported to have discharged with credit the duty in the execution of which they died. Each of the officers held a permanent appointment of which the pay was Rs. 50 a month. Their families, though not left destitute, are in need of assistance.

(3) A pension of Rs. 4 a month to the mother of the late Mr. G. K. Agarkar, Range Forest-officer at Sholapur. Mr. Agarkar was appointed inspecting plague officer within a radius of 20 miles from Sholapur, and contracted the disease whilst dealing with plague cases in villages near Sholapur. He held a permanent appointment, the pay of which was Rs. 20 a month, and left an aged mother who was dependent on him.

4. We trust that Your Lordship will approve the orders passed in these cases, and we would suggest that you should authorize us to sanction the grant of family pensions in similar cases which may arise in connection with the plague, a consolidated report of the sanctions being forwarded quarterly for Your Lordship's information.

DESPATCH from the Right Hon'ble Lord GEORGE FRANCIS HAMILTON, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 17th November 1898, No. 195 (Financial).

I have considered in Council Your Excellency's letter, dated the 29th of September, No. 299, stating that the authority, which you gave to the Government of Bombay in April 1897, to consider Police officers meeting their death through plague contracted in discharge of their duties connected therewith as having been killed in the execution of duty attended with extraordinary bodily risk, was limited to the case of the police; but that you had informed that Government of your willingness to consider the question of compensation to the families of other Government officers in a similar position in life, who might have been brought into contact with plague by the direct orders of the Government.

2. In consequence of this intimation, you have received from the Bombay Government several applications; and you have sanctioned pensions of Rs. 7-8-0 a month to the son of Tahilram Chainrai, an assistant master of the Anglo-Vernacular school at Kotri; of Rs. 5 a month each to the widows of Krishnaji Ballal Chapekar and Kasinath Wasudev Bhagvat, revenue subordinates; and of Rs. 4 a month to the mother of G. K. Agarkar, a Range Forest-officer; these servants of the Government having all been employed on duty connected with the plague, which was no part of the service that they would ordinarily be required to perform.

3. I approve of the orders passed by you in these cases, and I authorize your sanctioning the grant of family pensions in similar instances, where the duty arising in connection with the plague is clearly outside the scope of the appointment held by the officer dying from the disease, and the circumstances of his family are such as to justify the grant.

4. It is, however, necessary that you should impress upon the local authorities the importance of exercising great discretion in the recommendations which they may make; for it is desirable to give no encouragement to an impression that duty connected with the plague involves greater risks, or is deserving of more favourable treatment, than attendance in the infectious wards of a hospital or in a camp afflicted with cholera, which is accepted as part of the officer's ordinary duty.

ORDER—No. 175 P., dated 3rd February 1899.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

A. Edington
for Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Plague Commissioner.

" " Departments of the Secretariat.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Sanitary Engineer.
" " Sanitary Board.

Marine Department.

**Government {1899} of Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.**

Recd.

Regd.

} 1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 175 P., 3rd February 1899.

*No 169 dated 23.2.99
Recorded.*

FEBRUARY.

189 A.S.R.

To The Presidency Post Office.

Pensions.

Recording letter from the Government of India forwarding a copy of the despatches on the subject of the grant of — to the families of officers dying of plague contracted in the discharge of duties connected with plague, and inviting attention to the importance of exercising great discretion in the recommendations that may be made by the local authorities in that behalf.

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(2) A pension of Rs. 5 a month each to the widow of the late Mr. Krishnaji Ballal Chapekar and to the widow of the late Mr. Kasinath Wasudev Bhagvat. These officers were both revenue subordinates, and were employed as plague inspectors in the city of Sholapur, a duty which brought them into daily contact with cases of plague. They are both reported to have discharged with credit the duty in the execution of which they died. Each of the officers held a permanent appointment of which the pay was Rs. 50 a month. Their families, though not left destitute, are in need of assistance.

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(True Extract.)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Plague Commissioner.
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" " Sanitary Board.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

Marine Department
Government {1899} of Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.

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No. 169 March 23. 2. 99
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