

Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No. 4484

DATED 4/2/96

[Despatch Abstract.]

Village Sanitary Inspection Book
G.O. & Co. Dept regarding the
preparation & maintenance
of a ——— Communicated to office
of the P.W.D.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 8th March 1895, No. 4-Sanitary—83.

In a Circular letter, No. 5-Sanitary—148, dated 28th August 1893, the Government of India suggested the issue of instructions to all Civil and Medical officers for enquiries of a practical nature into outbreaks of cholera and other epidemic diseases. Stress was laid upon the necessity for the immediate and thorough investigation on the spot of outbreaks of such diseases, and it was suggested that Civil Medical officers should be directed to keep ready prepared and to distribute beforehand a printed form of instructions (as prescribed) in the vernacular for the use of all persons whose duty it would be to report the occurrence of cases of cholera.

2. With reference to this subject, and in connection with the question of improving village conservancy and rural sanitation in India, it has been suggested to the Government of India that District and Medical officers would derive much assistance in acquiring a practical knowledge of the local sanitary conditions of their districts if a permanent record containing such information as can be furnished of the sanitary history of each locality were kept up. An attempt has been made to indicate in the questions given in the annexed paper the kind of information which is required, and this information might be embodied in a record to be called the "Village Sanitary Inspection Book" by some literate resident of the village—either the headman, village accountant, or any other intelligent person. It has further been suggested that these questions might be printed on each page of the book both in English and the vernacular of the district, a blank page being inserted after each set of questions for any subsequent remarks which might be made by officers of the district staff, including Tahsildars, gazetted officers of the Police and Public Works Department and officials of the Sanitary and Medical Departments visiting the village on tour. The book should ordinarily be kept in the village as a local record, and sent at the end of every quarter to the Civil Surgeon in order that the information may be abstracted for permanent record in his office.

3. In some Provinces a "Village note book" of a similar nature is already maintained for revenue purposes, and the adoption of such a note book for information regarding sanitary matters would in these Provinces be a matter of no difficulty. It appears also to the Governor-General in Council that the suggestion could be easily carried out in other Provinces, and His Excellency in Council therefore desires that the experiment of introducing it should be tried. The Governor-General in Council will leave it to Local Governments and Administrations to make any additions or alterations which may be considered necessary or desirable in the questions to be put.

4. The Governor-General in Council desires that the system above described should be confined for the present to selected villages. It seems to His Excellency in Council essential for the proper working of the scheme that villages and areas selected should

be grouped and marked off in the district or thana maps. They are already so grouped for the purpose of furnishing information regarding cholera, but the existing groups will probably be found to be too large for the present purpose, and it may be desirable to reduce them to ten or fifteen villages at most. The system might, at first, be introduced in the chief village of each small group and gradually extended so as eventually to embrace all the villages in the group.

5. I am to request that the progress made in the preparation and maintenance of such a village sanitary record in the Madras Presidency may be duly noticed in the annual sanitary reports.

ENCLOSURE.

The points to be dwelt on briefly in the "Village Sanitary Inspection Book" should include the following:—

1. Name of village and pargana, with the name of the person by whom information was supplied.
2. Position with regard to main roads, railways, pilgrim routes, &c.
3. Conformation of site and locality.
4. Character of the soil and its tendency to retain moisture or otherwise; state of natural drainage.
Is there any attempt at artificial drainage?
Is there any obstruction to drainage, by roads, railways, embankments or other works on drainage or by the silting up of rivers or *khals*?
Spring level of village lands in hot, dry and monsoon months.
Position of burial-grounds and cremation ghâts as regards villages and streams.
5. Area, number of houses, their construction, arrangement in groups or streets, sanitary condition of immediate surroundings of each house or group of houses; site crowding. Are the dwellings generally crowded or otherwise?
6. Population, its principal castes; trades and occupations of the inhabitants. Particulars as to migration.
7. Food substances, their source of supply and degree of abundance.
8. Water-supply: principal sources.
If from wells—
How many are there? What are their respective depths and what is the distance between surface of ground and the surface of water in the hot weather? How are they protected from surface impurities? Are they of masonry or not? Are any set aside for particular castes?
If from tanks—
How many are there? What are their respective sizes? Are they protected from fouling by men, as by washing, &c., and by cattle? Are any set apart for the use of particular castes?
If from rivers or streams—
Is the stream polluted from any cause, such as impure surface drainage, or trades and manufactures, such as tanning, dyeing, &c., before it reaches the village or during the passage by the village?
The neighbourhood of burial or burning places to drinking water should be noted. Are the wells or tanks set apart for drinking purposes periodically cleaned? If so, at what intervals? The date on which each cleaning actually takes place should be noted.
9. Is any place, or are any places, set aside for answering the calls of nature?
If so, what is the position of such a place or places with regard to the prevailing winds, natural drainage of the country, the wells and tanks and the dwellings of the inhabitants? Is the site systematically cultivated? Is any system of conservancy carried out? If so, describe it. How is house refuse disposed of?
10. Are there many cattle or domestic animals kept in the village? How are they stalled or penned? Is manure stored in the village in any quantity? If stored outside the village, where is it kept? Is any place set apart for the slaughter of animals by butchers, or for *chamars* to skin or cut up animals; and, if so, at what distance from the village?
Notes of epidemics among cattle should be recorded.
11. Are any religious fairs (*melas*) held in the village? If so, are they largely attended and by what classes of people? When are the market days? What is the average attendance at religious fairs and markets?

12. Are marriage processions frequent? Are they largely attended?
13. The births and deaths should be noted.
How are the dead disposed of? Is cremation thoroughly carried out? What becomes of the ashes? Are dead Musulmans buried in a special cemetery? Are any buried in compounds or within municipal or village limits? How are the bodies of dead children disposed of? How are persons dead of small-pox and cholera disposed of? Is vaccination popular among the inhabitants?
Notes of epidemics among human beings should be recorded.
14. Meteorological phenomena, such as exceptional rainfall, floods or unusual changes of temperature, should be described.
15. Other unusual phenomena, such as floods, drought, scarcity or famine, should also be noted.

From L. M. THORNTON, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Sanitary), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 13th November 1895, No. 357.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, Mis. No. 1814 L., dated the 2nd October 1895, requesting that the Madras Presidency may be exempted from the scope of the instructions contained in Home Department letter No. 4-Sanitary—83, dated the 8th March 1895, regarding the trial in selected villages of the experiment of maintaining a "Village Sanitary Inspection Book." The objections to the trial of the experiment appear from your letter to be—

- (1) that the work would in almost all cases devolve upon the village accountant, whose record would be such as to require the scrutiny of the Tahsildar, and that the work of these classes of officials is already so heavy that any addition to it is to be strongly deprecated; and
- (2) that the sanitary inspection book would be useless in the large villages where it is proposed first to introduce it, because it would contain much less accurate and scientific information than is already available.

2. In reply I am to point out that what the Government of India desire and hope to attain by the adoption of the measures indicated in Home Department Circular, No. 4-Sanitary—83, dated 8th March 1895, is a *permanent local record*, which inspecting officers visiting a village may utilise for their own information and in which they may enter facts that would be useful to future Inspectors. The facts reported in your letter do not, I am to say, differ so radically from the state of things obtaining in other Provinces as to mark out the Madras Presidency for special exemption from a trial of the scheme. Such village note books have been found most useful elsewhere, and in these circumstances I am to say that the Government of India trust that the Governor in Council will have no objection to causing a trial to be given to the system in the Madras Presidency also.

ORDER—No. 25 L., dated 7th January 1896.

The letter from the Government of India, No. 4-Sanitary—83, dated 8th March 1895, will be communicated to all local boards with the request that the proposed "Village Sanitary Inspection Book" may be prepared and maintained for all villages which have been constituted unions. The duty of compiling the book should be entrusted to the local medical officer in unions where there is a hospital or dispensary and to the chairman of the union panchayat in the others. Officers of the Revenue Department not below the rank of Tahsildar and all gazetted officers of the Police, Public Works, Sanitary and Medical departments will be expected, when visiting the union villages on tour, to enter in the "Inspection Book" any remarks they may have to offer, and the book should ordinarily be kept in the village as a local record and sent at the end of every quarter to the District Medical and Sanitary Officer in order that the information may be abstracted for permanent record in his office.

2. The Sanitary Commissioner will be requested to notice in his annual reports, beginning with that for the year 1896, the progress made in the preparation and maintenance of the "Inspection book" referred to in paragraph 1.

(True Extract.)



for *Chief Secretary*.

To all Presidents of District Boards.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ the Sanitary Engineer.
„ the Surgeon-General.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Judicial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.

ENDORSEMENT—No. 25A L., dated 7th January 1896.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.