

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Order—No. 14, Revenue, dated 10th January 1898.

* * * * When Government sanctions special duty for a definite period, the intention is ordinarily that work of the kind contemplated shall be continuously pursued for the period and not be interrupted by the grant of leave to those who may be detailed for the duty. The cases are exceptional in which the specific services of a particular officer are required * * * *

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

ORDER—No. 84, Financial, dated 1st February 1898.

Extract from the foregoing order will be communicated to all departments of the Secretariat and to all heads of departments under the Chief Secretary.

(True Extract.)

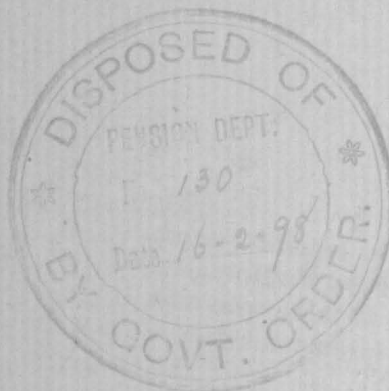
A. L. Hanuman
11/2/98
for Chief Secretary.

To departments of the Secretariat. (Pension)
„ all heads of departments under the Chief Secretary.

Exd. C. M. Thambuswamy.

Pension 1898 Department
Government (1898) of Madras.
REVENUE.

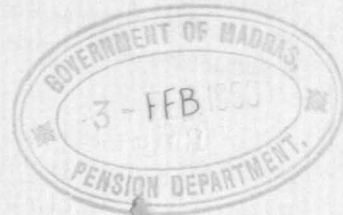
Current No 75



Recd. 3rd February }
Regd. 3rd Feb. 4 } 1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies



G.O., Mis. No. 295, 19th January 1898.

JANUARY.

Referring to the departments of the Secretariat, the Board of Revenue and the Superintendent, Madras Survey, for opinion, papers relative to the proposed revision of the rules regulating the grant of compensation for dearness of food to Government employes in the Civil Department.

List

Order 16th Feb 1898 No. 130

Recorded

Note

The Pension Dept has no

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Resolution of the Government of India (Finance and Commerce Department—Salaries, Establishments, &c.—Compensation), dated Calcutta, 5th January 1898, No. 4-Ex. :—

Read—

Resolution by the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 1648, dated 28th March 1888.

Resolution by the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 3332, dated 2nd August 1893.

Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 136, dated 4th March 1897.

Letter to the Government of Madras, No. 2287, dated 20th May 1897.

Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 802, dated 22nd September 1897.

Resolution.—The correspondence with the Government of Madras read in the preamble and printed as an appendix to this resolution, and other references received by the Government of India during the recent famine have suggested the necessity for considering whether the rules regulating the grant of compensation for dearness of food to Government employes in the Civil Department, which in their present form are embodied in article 72, Volume I, of the Civil Account Code, might not with advantage be made more clear as to their application and possibly modified in other respects also. But before coming to any final decision, the Governor-General in Council desires to be in possession of the views of the various Provincial Governments, and all Local Governments and Administrations which have lately been affected by famine are accordingly requested to report at an early date as to whether experience has shown that the rules require alteration, and, if so, in what directions.

2. The following are indicated as salient points to be specially considered and answered :—

(1) Are the limits of 12 and 10 seers per rupee of the common staple food-grain of the district, which must be reached before the rates of compensation at present admissible can be drawn, suitable, having regard to the normal prices of these grains in ordinary times? If not, what modification of the rule should be made, and on what grounds?

(2) Would it be fairer, and equally consistent with economy, to substitute for the price of the common staple food-grain of the district a test based on an average of the prices of the principal food-grains in common use?

(3) Is it necessary to extend the benefits of the compensation allowance as widely as is done at present, *i.e.*, do not the existing limits—Rs. 16 in ordinary cases, and Rs. 25 in the case of men who have to keep a horse or camel—include Government servants who ought to be in a position to meet the extra expenses caused by the vicissitudes of seasons, without special allowances? If so, what limits of pay should be substituted?

(4) It has already been ruled by the Government of India (*vide* Notification in this department, dated 17th May 1870, No. 465), that grain compensation allowance should not be given to men absent on leave. Should not the same principle be extended to part-time servants who are only engaged by Government for specific duties which do not prevent their earning money in other ways? On the other hand, should it not be made clear that the allowance is admissible to acting men and temporary hands, provided always that they are drawing rates of pay which have been fixed with reference to normal circumstances?

(5) In the case of Government servants drawing consolidated rates of pay, part of which has been expressly granted for the upkeep of a horse or camel, should not the question whether they are eligible for grain compensation be decided according as their net pay, excluding the above-mentioned allowance, falls within or without the limit prescribed for ordinary Government servants? Thus, taking the present rates, if a man has to maintain a horse for the performance of his ordinary duties, but does not receive any special allowance therefor as part of his consolidated pay, he would fall under the Rs. 25 limit; but if he receives a horse allowance, such allowance should be excluded, and the test to be applied for determining his eligibility for the allowance is whether his remaining net pay is in excess of Rs. 16 or not.

3. In replying to this reference, Local Governments and Administrations are requested to keep the following general principles in view :—

First.—Rules for the grant of compensation for dearness of food must be as definite as possible. If they are vague or indefinite, any temporary pressure will inevitably give rise to numerous claims and to unnecessary additional expenditure. Government employes should not be encouraged to think that their pay is liable to increase in years of high prices any more than it is liable to decrease in years in which prices fall below the average; and it is only in entirely exceptional cases that any claim for a special compensation allowance really arises. The problem is therefore how to give an accurate and workable definition of these exceptional circumstances.

Second.—The rules must in any case be such as to leave with the Local Governments the discretion of pronouncing whether in any districts the exceptional circumstances above mentioned exist or not, and at the same time to ensure that the various Governments will on the whole (though not necessarily in all details) proceed on the same lines in doing so.

4. It is further necessary to guard against the fallacy that the wages of menial servants have a definite relation to the ordinary price of the staple food of the particular district in which they are employed, and are therefore inadequate when this rises. The Government of India do not consider that such an assumption has any adequate foundation. Wages in the case of petty servants are largely determined by the custom and practice of the Local Government as a whole. The Government is therefore under no obligation to give compensation to a man merely because he will otherwise be getting for the time less real remuneration than his brethren elsewhere.

Order.—Ordered, that a copy of the foregoing resolution be forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations, and to all Departments of the Government of India.

(By order.)

(Signed) W. S. MEYER,
Offg. Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.