

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1401

DATED 21. 10. 97.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comg. to the A.G. letter from the S.G.
on the system of payment of
ration allowance to the nurses
of the General Hospital with
the remark that the Govt sees
no reason to interfere with the
existing arrangements.

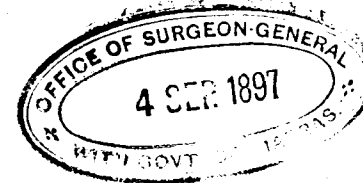
BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Public (1897) Department.



CURRENT No. 3155



From The Accountant General

Order No 1025 of 22 Sept 1897.

Referred to the
Surgeon General for Report.

No. 2539

Reddish
Chief Secretary

Dated 20th August 1897

Received 22.

Registered 23.

Enclosures —

Spare copies —

3/8/97

TO BE RETURNED
WITH REPLY.

SUBJECT.

Enquiring whether certain
systems cannot be fol-
lowed with reference
to the payment of ration
allowance to the nurses
of the General Hospital
Madras.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	191	Pub	26.2.97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Presidency DEPARTMENT.

3155
FORT ST. GEORGE,
Accountant-General's Office,
20th August 1897.

No. 2539

From

J. C. Harrison Esq.

ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL TO THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

THE *Chief Secretary to Government*
Public Department
Madras.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following for consideration and orders:-

In refunding the undischarged pay of a certain nurse of the General Hospital, in the Establishment pay bill of that Hospital for May 1897, the Senior Medical Officer deducted, from the undischarged amount, a certain portion of the ration allowance due to the nurse and paid back only the net amount. From the correspondence that ensued as to the circumstances under which

which the deduction was made, it was ascertained that a contractor is engaged to supply rations to the nurses of the General Hospital, according to a scale laid down by the Station Superintendent, and that the ration allowance is paid directly to the Contractor and a receipt obtained, the same being deducted from the amount due to each nurse. When, therefore, this office pointed out that the undebursed pay of the nurses should be refunded in full, and the deduction, if any, should be made only when the refunded amount is redrawn for payment to them, the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital stated that this procedure would give rise to complications. For instance, he said, a contractor to whom is due the ration allowance of a nurse, who absents herself without leaving instructions regarding her address, can never be paid, unless the nurse makes an application for her pay, as under Article 63 of the Civil Account Code, the refunded amount can be drawn only when the nurse presents herself again.

again.

Though according to the statement of the Senior Medical Officer, the arrangement with Contractors is made to suit the convenience of the nurses and in the interests of the institution, I do not think it is the intention of Government that it should take the responsibility of supplying rations to the nurses. When a ration allowance is given, it is usual to leave people to make their own arrangements for supplying themselves with rations. The allowance is drawn in the Establishment bill with pay, and the nurses are supposed to give receipts for the whole amount received including ration allowance. In the circumstances, I would enquire whether one of the following three systems cannot be followed.

(a) to leave the Contractors to make their own recoveries.

(b) to pay a fixed amount to the Contractor for

for the nurses, giving them a smaller ration allowance or none at all.

(c) to recover the ration allowance only when the pay is drawn or when the nurse dies or does not return.

Have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt. servant
W. A. A.
Off. Accountant General

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3853



Surgeon-Major-General C. Sibthorpe,
C.B., F.R.C.P.I.,
Surgeon-General with the Government
of Madras.

No. 75730

Dated 11th October 1897.

Received 11. " "

Registered 12. " "

Enclosures C. N. 3155 ret.

Spare copies

recd 13.10.97

SUBJECT.

Submit report regarding the payment of ration allowance to the nurses of the General Hospital, Madras.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
191237			

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[1]

CURRENT NO 3853

OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL

WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

No. 15/30

11th October 1897

From

C.B.,

SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I.,

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Public DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

With reference to your endorsement No.1825, Public, dated 2nd September 1897 (herewith returned) referring to me for report a letter from the Accountant-General commenting on the system of payment of ration allowance to the Nurses of the General Hospital, I have the honor to offer the following remarks:-

2. The system in vogue at present for the rationing of the Nurses of the General Hospital, Madras, is that a caterer is selected by the Matron Superintendent with the approval of the Senior Medical Officer, and this individual (called for convenience the Nurses' contractor though no actual contract is entered into with him) undertakes to provide the Nurses with the articles of diet according to a certain scale, and is paid the ration allowance drawn for the Nurses. The Senior Medical Officer reports that this system has been found to be simple, easy and admirable in its results, and that it would be impossible for the Nurses to make their own arrangements for supplying themselves with rations without neglect of their legitimate duties and consequent detriment to the proper administration of the Hospital.

3. As regards the particular instance dwelt upon by the Accountant General (that of Nurse Byrne) the Senior Medical Officer reports as follows:-

"Nurse Byrne left Hospital on the 6th April 1897.

Her

her pay and ration allowance for 5 days were drawn at the beginning of the following month. The ration allowance was paid to the so-called Nurses' contractor as she had of course been rationed for the days she had been in Hospital. Not returning to claim for the 5 days, the amount undisbursed was refunded by short drawal the following month. When refunding, the Accountant-General took exception to the pay only being refunded and wished both pay and ration allowance to be refunded, but it was pointed out to him that the ration allowance had actually been expended in feeding the Nurse, and that if the mode of procedure advocated by him as the proper one, were followed it would mean that the contractor would never be paid at all."

4. I endorse all that the Senior Medical Officer has written on this subject. The arrangement with the contractor is made to suit the convenience of the Nurses as well as in the interests of the institution itself. It does not in the least convey the idea, as suggested by the Accountant General, that it is the intention of Government that it should take the responsibility of supplying rations to the Nurses. The action of the Hospital authorities in this matter in no way binds Government and is merely an arrangement to protect the caterer from being unfairly deprived of what he had actually spent on feeding the Nurses.

5. As regards the three systems suggested by the Accountant-General in the concluding portion of his letter, I am of opinion that none of them would, with any amount of fairness to the contractor, be workable. I shall deal with each in turn.

(i) To leave the caterer to make his own recoveries would eventually render his position untenable in as much as the more improvident and reckless among the Nurses would give him much trouble by not paying the money actually spent on feeding them, and would thus soon bring the system to a close thereby putting both the Nurses and the Hospital authorities to considerable inconvenience.

(ii) To pay a fixed amount to the Contractor for the Nurses, giving them a smaller ration allowance or none at all, means in other words to leave the feeding of the Nurses to the

mercy

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mercy of the caterer. Government quite recently saw the necessity of increasing their ration allowance from Rs.15 to Rs.20 a month as the former amount proved insufficient to give them good and wholesome food. Any reduction in the ration allowance is therefore not to be thought of. It would be a reversal of Government's recent policy and would have very harmful results.

(iii) To recover the ration allowance only when the pay is drawn or when the Nurse dies or does not return, such a course would be most unfair to the caterer who might be kept waiting for payment for an indefinite period.

6. In my opinion an arrangement of this nature should be left to the discretion of the Hospital authorities so long as it does not contravene any rules or orders of Government, as otherwise difficulties and inconveniences are sure to arise, and I hope that Government will allow the present arrangement to continue as they are.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Chio M. N. S.

Surgeon-Major-General,

As Surgeon-General with the Government
of Madras.

C. No. 3155 + 3853

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.
 THE HON'BLE ^{Sir} BLISS, K.C.I.E.
 THE HON'BLE MR. GROOE, C.I.E.

SUBJECT.

CS ^{method of} Payment of ration
 allowance to nurses
 in the General Hospital

FOR ORDERS.

A letter from the
 Asst Genl commenting on
 the system in vogue
 in the Genl Hoapl
 of paying the ration
 allowance to the nurses
 and enquiring whether
 one of the three systems
 suggested by him might
 not be adopted, together
 with the Surge Genl's
 remarks thereon
 is submitted for orders.

Submitted that
 the Surge Genl's letter
 may be consd.
 to the Asst Genl & the
 latter Officer told
 that the existing
 system may be
 allowed.

allowed to stand
unless (which does
not appear to be the case)
it contravenes some
specific rule.

The weak point
in the Surgeon's argument
seems to be that while
disclaiming any intention
to make foot responsible
in any way, he in the
same breath suggests
that foot should
protect the contractor.
But the matter seems
to be pure face Executive
one in which it is
hardly necessary to
interfere.

The A.G.'s onus stands in
this matter is, it is submitted,
16.10.97 not apparent. He is within his
rights in expecting to receive such
he cannot interfere, but his
report that one of three causes
should be admitted appears to
be somewhat ultra vires. Submitted
that the order proposed above may
issue.

The order proposed may go out: no need to send to H.M. if the A.G. object
on the ground that it is a breach of the case law, then he
sent up for orders 18/10/97

AK
16/10/97

[G
24]
1,0 0-18-9-97.

Public DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:--

Again G.O., No. , dated

189 .

Again G.O., No. , dated

189 .

Current No. 3155 of 1897, dated 20th Aug, from The Asst Genl
" " 3853 " 1897, " 11th Oct, " " Surgeon
" " " 1897, " " " "

OK ORDER No. 1401 of 21-10-97
was

The Surgeon General's
letter will be communi-
-cated to the Asst Genl
with the remark that
the foot sees no reason
to interfere with existing
arrangements, as no
specific rule would
appear to be infringed
thereby.

(from C.S.'s order)

To The Asst Genl { 2 = 3155
a = 3853 } 21.10.97
" Surgeon General 2 = both do 22/10/97
mre. 21/10/97

When given for copying 21
When copied 21
When examined 21
When signed 21
1897
Quoted 16447

READ AGAIN G.O., No. DATED
189

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
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