

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 913

Press

~~Mis.~~

327.328

Dated 30.5.19-1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th May 1864.*

No. 327. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department:—

Concurring with the Post Master General as to the expedi-
ency of giving batta to the Postal Runners in the Districts
of Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool, with reference to the
excessive rise of prices in those Districts. } (Here enter 13th May 1864, No. 552.)

No. 328. ORDER THEREON, 30th May 1864, No. 913.
Communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Honorable C. Pelly for information.
(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, } with Proceedings Public Department, No. 552.
„ the Honorable C. Pelly, }

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

✓

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
13th May 1864.*

No. 83. Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel A. C. PEARSON, Postmaster General; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 30th April 1864, No. 8601.

I have the honor to subjoin, for the information of Government, a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Director General of the Post Office in India, No. 373, dated 19th ultimo, recommending the grant of batta to the Runners in the Districts of Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool, and on certain lines in the Southern part of Hyderabad, during the prevalence of the present scarcity; and, in original, that officer's reply, with enclosures, advising me to apply to Government for their approval and support of the measure.

2. The pay of the Runners in these Districts has lately been raised from 4 Rupees to 5 Rupees a month, but the latter sum is found insufficient; and the question arises whether a further permanent increase should be made to their pay, or whether an allowance or batta should be made them as long as the present high prices of labour and provisions continue.

3. Believing that the scarcity was temporary and that prices would soon fall, I recommended the grant of batta; but from further information and further consideration of the subject, I doubt whether an increase to the pay would not be preferable.

4. I request that I may be informed whether, in consequence of the present high prices in the Districts I have named, the Government have ordered, or are about to order the issue of batta or increased pay to the servants of other Departments.

5. And I beg that I may be favored (for communication to the Director General) with the opinion of Government as to whether it is desirable to issue batta to Postal Runners in the Districts in question at the present time, or to increase their pay.

6. If it is probable that the present high prices of provisions and labour will be permanent, I suppose that a permanent increase of pay should be given, and that, in addition thereto, batta should be given when necessary in times of unusual scarcity, according to some fixed rule, having reference to the price, at the time of the staple article of food in each District.

Extract paragraphs 9th to 12th of letter, No. 1559, dated 22nd September 1863, from the Officer in charge of the Office of Director General of Post Offices of India; to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Home Department.

9. The Commissioner of the Southern Division states that the measure was sanctioned by the Local Government in an Order dated in September 1862; and the Commissioner of the Northern Division intimates that "the Peons in the Magisterial Department and the Policemen are also allowed batta" at the same rates: and that the same indulgence is, he believes, conceded to the lowly paid servants in the Judicial Department.

10. The conditions and rates of the batta allowance, as stated by the two Commissioners, are not quite identical. The most precise definition of the conditions of batta is apparently to be found in the communication of the Commissioner, Southern Division, viz., that batta is allowed "provided that the ruling price of Bajree is at the time for which batta is charged, not more than

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
13th May 1864.*

"13 Seers of 80 Tolahs each for a Rupee." The rates of batta are stated by the same authority to be as follows:—

To those drawing just 8 Rupees per mensem as pay, half an Anna per diem.

To those drawing less than Rupees 8 per mensem as pay, one Anna per diem.

The following table given by the Commissioner of the Northern Division seems to qualify the above definition in so far that pay of Rupees 7-8-0 per mensem is claimed under the same head as pay of Rupees 8 per mensem:—

Monthly Pay.	Batta per month.		Total.
	Rate per diem.	Amount.	
RS. A. P.		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
5 0 0	1 Anna...	1 14 0	6 14 0
6 0 0	1 „	1 14 0	7 14 0
7 8 0	6 Pies.. ...	0 15 0	8 7 0
8 0 0			8 15 0

11. It seems to me that if the Local Government has, after a full consideration of the circumstances of the case, introduced the measure above described in the Revenue Department and apparently also in other Departments, it may almost be assumed that a like measure will meet the requirements of the Postal Department. It will, if sanctioned, of course, apply only to such portions of the Bombay Postal circle as have had the measure extended to them in the Revenue Department by the Local Government. This will exclude the territories comprised in the Central Provinces, as well as any other portions of territory administered postally by Dr. Impey, but which are not within the jurisdiction of the Bombay Government.

12. It would seem to be proper, in the case of the proposal being sanctioned, that all increases of pay which have come into force since September 1862, should be deducted from the batta allowance otherwise claimable.

(Signed) A. M. MONTEATH,
In charge of the Office of Director General
of Post Offices of India.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Financial Department, under date the 5th October 1863, No. 4887.

Read an Endorsement from the Home Department, No. 6189 of the 30th ultimo, forwarding an urgent recommendation from the Officer in charge of the Office of the Director General of the Post Office for the grant of batta to the Peons and Runners of the Postal establishment in the Bombay Presidency. Also transmitting a communication from the Government of Bombay containing particulars as to the extra cost incurred in consequence of the grant of batta to the Revenue and Police establishments in that Presidency.

2. Mr. Monteath recommends that the inferior classes of servants in the Postal establishment of Bombay should be placed on the same footing in respect of batta as the corresponding class of employes in the Revenue and Police establishments.

3. The necessity for this measure is very urgently pressed by the Postmaster General of Bombay on account of the very high price of Bajree, the staple article of food in that part of India.

4. It appears that so long as Bajree sells at 13 Seers for the Rupee, the servants of other Public Departments, in certain parts of Bombay, who draw 8 Rupees per month, are allowed batta of half an Anna per diem, and those getting less than 8 Rupees per month, one Anna per diem. Mr. Monteath recommends a like indulgence for Peons and Runners in the Postal Department on similar pay, but he would couple the extension of the grant to the Postal Department with the condition that

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
13th May 1864.*

increases of pay, which have come into force since September 1862, should be deducted from the batta allowance otherwise claimable.

5. The Honorable the President in Council is pleased to authorize the Postmaster General of Bombay to allow batta to the employes in his Department, wherever it is now allowed to the servants of other Public Departments, without requiring the refund suggested by Mr. Monteath. The batta is only to be allowed to those who do not receive more than 8 Rupees per month, and to them only, in localities where the price of Bajree is not more than 13 Seers of 80 Tolahs to the Seer per Rupee. The necessity for adhering to these terms should be strongly enjoined on the Postmaster General, who will be held strictly responsible for making effectual arrangements to preserve them from being violated in any instance. At the same time Dr. Impey's attention should be called to the fact, that Mr. Ellis reports that the grant of batta had ceased in the only Collectorate of the Northern Division, in which it had ever been found necessary to give it, and that it has been found requisite to extend it to three Districts only of the—Southern Division.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to the Home Department, and to the Officiating Auditor General of India, and that the original documents received from the Home Department be returned, a copy being kept for record.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) E. H. LUSHINGTON,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 6466.

Forwarded to the Officer in charge of the Office of Director General of the Post Office in India, with reference to his letter, No. 1559, dated the 22nd ultimo.

(By Order.)
(Signed) J. W. S. WYLLIE,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FORT WILLIAM,
HOME DEPARTMENT,
13th October 1863.

From A. M. MONTEATH, Esq., in charge of the Office of Director General of Post Offices of India; to the Postmaster General, Bombay, dated Calcutta, the 21st October 1863, No. 1792.

* Financial Department, No. 4887 of the 5th instant, received under cover of Home Department, Docket No. 6466 of 13th instant.

In forwarding to you the enclosed copy of a communication* from the Government of India on the subject of the batta allowance proposed by you in your letter, No. 517 of the 20th August,

I beg to draw your particular attention to the concluding paragraph, and to request that you will lose no time in informing me of the arrangements which may be made by you for securing that the payment of the allowance shall be made only where "it is now allowed to the servants of other Departments, and only in localities where the price of Bajree is not more than 13 seers (of 80 Tolahs to the Seer) per Rupee."

2. The bills for batta allowance should be drawn out separately from those for fixed pay, and submitted to you for audit. I shall request the Accountant General, if there be no objection, to issue instructions for making the bills payable at the local Treasuries on production of your advice of audit, which should be sent to the local officer who submits the bill.

3. The bills after being audited and counter-signed by you should be submitted for post audit, and adjustment in account to the Compiler in Calcutta. You are requested to report, so soon as it may be in your power, the probable financial effect of the grant of the allowance.

(True Copy)
(Signed) A. M. MONTEATH,
In charge of the Office of Director General
of Post Offices of India.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
13th May 1864.*

From A. M. MONTEATH, Esq., in charge of the Office of Director General of Post Offices of India; to the Postmaster General, Madras, dated Calcutta, the 14th April 1864, No. 3486.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, No. 373, dated 19th ultimo, recommending the grant of a batta allowance to the Runner establishments on certain lines in the Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool Districts in addition to the increased pay (Rupees 5 per mensem) recently authorized.

2. You propose that the batta allowance should be similar to that granted on the Bombay side, and it is necessary therefore that I should point out the circumstances and conditions under which the allowance in question was admitted by the Government.

* No. 1559.

3. The measure was recommended by me to the Government of India in a letter,* dated the 22nd September last, and was described in the 9th to 12th paragraphs, of which I enclose an extract. I also enclose copy of the Orders of Government, No. 4887 of the 5th October 1863, sanctioning the proposal with certain remarks; and of my letter to the Postmaster General of Bombay, No. 1792 of the 21st October, communicating instructions for giving effect to the arrangement.

4. You will observe that in Bombay the allowance was given after the Local Government had decided upon its actual necessity in respect of similar establishments under its control: and that it is only claimable in those Districts in which Bajree (the staple commodity of food) may be selling for the time at not more than 13 Seers (of 80 Tolahs to the Seer) per Rupee. In no case is batta allowed to be drawn by the Postal establishments, where it is not drawn by the establishments of other Departments under the Local Government.

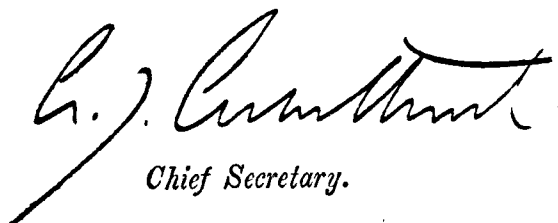
5. I hardly think that the Government of India will be prepared to admit a similar allowance to Postal establishments in any part of the Madras Presidency, unless the proposal be fully approved and supported by the Local Government; and I would advise you, if you are convinced of its necessity, at once to address that Government in the matter. There is an obvious objection to the introduction, by an Imperially-controlled Department like the Post office, of a system of batta allowances based more or less on grounds which must be equally applicable to establishments of other Departments without the distinct recognition of its expediency by the Government, which is charged with the administration of the Province or locality in which it may be proposed to introduce the system.

No. 84.

ORDER THEREON, 13th May 1864, No. 552.

The Governor in Council concurs with the Postmaster General as to the expediency of giving batta to the Postal Runners in the Districts of Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool, with reference to the excessive rise of prices in those Districts. He thinks that a temporary allowance is preferable to a permanent increase of wages.

(True Extract.)


Chief Secretary.

To the Postmaster General.

Revenue Dept.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

2 spare Copies

