Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3297

DATED 29th June

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Pros: Public Dept: passing orders on the suggestions of the Surgeon General in regard to the withdrawal of hospital assistants for famine duty from unimportant & unwin dispensaries when necessary & to the offer of more liberal furlough terms on certain scale to private hospital assistants for famine duty.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 2298

From The Public Dept.

Order mi No. 3297 d/29th June 97.

Recorded

No. 724

Dated 10th June 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

Copy to the Board of Rev. Secy.
2 Dtd. 5-7-97

RS
28-6-97

SUBJECT.

Hospital Asstts: for famine duty.

Passing orders on the suggestions of the Surgeon General in regard to the withdrawal of —— from unimportant & minor dispensaries when necessary and to the offer of more liberal and uniform terms on certain scale to private ——.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

R. W. Department

Government {1897} of Madras.

PUBLIC.

SEC. GOVT. MADRAS
25 JUN 97
REV. DEPT.

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G.O., No. 724, 10th June 1897.

JUNE.

Hospital Assistants for Famine Duty.

Passing orders on the suggestions of the Surgeon-General in regard to the withdrawal of — from unimportant and minor dispensaries when necessary and to the offer of more liberal and uniform terms on certain scale to private —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following papers :—

G.O., Nos. 1008, 1009, Public, dated 30th November 1891.
" " 865, Public, dated 14th November 1894.
" " 217, Financial, dated 8th March 1897.

Read—also the following paper :—

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 4th June 1897, No. Tour-2—79.

With reference to section 149 of the Madras Famine Code, I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government the great difficulty experienced by me in meeting the ever-increasing demands for medical aid from the famine-stricken districts.

2. Apart from the large staff of reserve subordinates employed on plague and cholera duties throughout the Presidency, about 35 hospital assistants have been supplied by me to various districts for famine work. This number is over and above the large permanent staff in each district which is maintained at its full complement.

3. I have since received requisitions for more men from each of the following districts—Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Ganjám and Kurnool, and I find it impossible to comply with these demands under present conditions.

4. Government is aware that the Provincial reserve at my disposal is very limited and unequal to the ordinary requirements of the department. With this fact in view, I applied to Government, in my letter, No. 141, dated 15th March 1897 and obtained permission to entertain private and pensioned hospital assistants so as to be in a ready position to cope with any increasing demands. I regret, however, to state that, after repeated advertisements, I have only been able during the past three months to secure the services of ten such men; of these, four have already resigned and the others are exhibiting a tendency to follow suit. These unsatisfactory and disappointing results are, in my opinion, due to various causes, chiefly among them being the very temporary character of the appointment and the inadequate rate of remuneration allowed for the hard and arduous duties connected with famine operations.

5. The temporary men are now paid at Government rates—if pensioners, according to the rank held by them while effective, and if private candidates, according to their standing and experience, and their travelling allowances are also regulated on the same principle. These do not form sufficient inducement for men of this class to apply in large numbers, so that, unless a fairly liberal scale of salary is offered, the prospects of obtaining any appreciable help from this direction are absolutely *nil*.

6. In providing the men I have already supplied I have had, in the absence of reserve hands, to withdraw hospital assistants from some small and less important charges by doubling-up appointments. I have only resorted to such an expedient

under pressure of circumstances, and I have done so with great reluctance, but, as it is, I have already practically exhausted the resources which even such measures place at my disposal. The new batch of hospital assistants expected to pass out at the end of the month will hardly suffice for the requirements already communicated to me and which, I believe, are likely to be soon followed by other demands. Thus it becomes necessary to find the extra subordinates required by either offering liberal rates of pay and allowances to private hospital assistants so as to induce them to apply in large numbers, or by temporarily withdrawing men from unimportant minor dispensaries both in the famine-stricken and adjoining districts. I would reserve the latter alternative as a last resort when all other attempts prove unsuccessful, as such a step is likely to cause considerable dissatisfaction and annoyance to the populations of the localities concerned. I would therefore suggest for the present the advisability of offering better and uniform terms to private men on the following scale, which I consider the lowest that is likely to ensure ready response :—

	Per mensem. Rs.
Pay	60
Famine allowance when attached to a kitchen, &c.	10
Compensation when not provided with quarters	5

and travelling allowance at double second-class fare by rail and 4 annas mileage when travelling by road. The latter concession should also be admissible when they are required to travel more than a mile from their head-quarters on inspection duty.

7. I hope under the new terms, if approved, to secure more men than have hitherto applied, but would at the same time request permission from Government to withdraw, when necessary, hospital assistants from minor dispensaries in any district by temporarily closing such institutions. I apply for this permission in time, to be in a position to act readily when an emergency arises, as it may then be too late to write and apply for sanction.

8. I also take this opportunity to request that the restriction laid down in G.O., No. 217, Financial, dated 8th March 1897, regarding the grant of famine allowance to Government hospital assistants may be withdrawn and the allowance granted to all hospital assistants detailed for famine duty irrespective of the nature of the appointments from which they are transferred. This restriction has already given rise to grievances on the part of some hospital assistants and has a prejudicial effect on their work—a contingency which should be avoided as much as possible. When on famine duty they have to do harder work and undergo more privation than when on cholera duty or in independent charge of a minor dispensary for which they draw an allowance.

9. Favour of very early orders is requested.

Order—No. 724, Public, dated 10th June 1897.

The Surgeon-General's proposal to withdraw hospital assistants from minor and unimportant dispensaries in non-famine districts, and to close these institutions temporarily, has already been approved in G.O., No. 410, Revenue, dated 31st May 1897, communicated with G.O., No. 719, Public, dated 9th June 1897. The present urgent demands for medical aid should, in the first instance, be met from this source. Meanwhile, in case the supply thus obtained should prove insufficient, the Surgeon-General should invite applications from private practitioners. With regard, however, to the scale of pay to be offered to these, the Government considers that an advance of 50 per cent. on the rates of pay assigned to the various classes of hospital assistants in the Government service should be ample Thus a private hospital assistant who passed less than seven years ago would receive Rs. 37-8-0 per mensem and so on. A record of all applications received from private practitioners who may appear eligible should be kept in readiness against further possible contingencies.

2. The Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command, will be requested to be so good as to intimate whether the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces can spare any medical subordinates for duty in the famine districts.

3 Orders will issue in the Financial Department for the modification of G.O., No. 217, Financial, dated 8th March 1897, so as to permit all hospital assistants deputed for famine duty to draw a charge allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem irrespective of the nature of the appointments from which they are transferred.

4. Compensation for quarters will be granted on the scale approved in paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 865, Public, dated 14th November 1894.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Deputy Adjutant-General.
„ all Collectors.
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Judicial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.

(True Copy)
Francis
ag: Under Secretary.

To
The Revenue Deptt.

Exd. A. Raitt

Note
Complete orig: papers will be sent later on with reference
D.O.M. No 1285 Pub. dt 17-6-97

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} 189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No 189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENTS WITH DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL								

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