

Memorandum to Cabinet by the Hon. Minister of Public Building and Works. Special unpaid leave exceeding thirty working days to certain minor employees to work with contractors engaged in the Building Trade.

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Building contractors are meeting serious difficulties in employing stone dressers, stone carriers masons, plasterers, whitewashers, tile layers, carpenters and other workers connected with the Building trade.

It is suggested that minor Government employees such as albourers and skilled labourers who possess the know-how of the building trade and tradesman who are redundant to the present requirements of the Department be allowed, at their request, special leave on no pay for a minimum period of three consecutive months during which they may work with the building contractor.

In order that the position of the employees may be clearly defined and the interest of Government fully safeguarded, it is suggested that the necessary arrangements would operate on the following lines:-

- a) the Government would bring to the notice of all industrial employees on no establishment that it is prepared to consider applications from such employees for release from Government service in order that they may work with contractors connected with the building trade;
- b) releases will be authorised only if the Head of the Department certifies that the employee asking for release is redundant to the requirement of the Department and that no substitutes will be engaged during the period of release;
- c) a release will be made for a minimum period of six consecutive months but it may be extended by further periods of not less than six months at the discretion of the Head of the Department, up to a maximum period not exceeding two years.
- d) such periods of release will not be reckoned for the purpose of gratuity/pension, leave and increments.

e) at the expiration of the release period an employee on release who wishes to come back to Government employment will be re-engaged in his former capacity on condition not less favourable than those under which he was employed on the date immediately preceding his release, provided that he is physically fit;

f) an employee who would not accept re-engagement at the expiration of the authorised period of release would be entitled to the payment of gratuity in respect of his reckonable service in Government employment if he qualified for such payment in terms of the regulations.

cc

28th March, 1967.