M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-39.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 951 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 7 — 11 — ~~19~~1887

Not to be folded or roughly handled

KNS

No. 25. From Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 27th October 1857, No. 277 of P. C. S.

SIR,

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 859 of the 7th Instant, I have the honor to report to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that Petitioner Peearee Khanum has twice already applied to the Agency and her Petitions have been endorsed as per Margin.*

* Petition No.	Subject.	Reply.
1200 of 13th July 1857.	Asking to have Rs. 5 stopped from the Pay of Mahomed Ibrahim.	Request cannot be complied with.
1513 of 14th August 1857.	Claiming a Pension.	Not entitled to one.

2. When Her Husband died on the 13th *Zeehuj* 1270, (7th September 1854.) she petitioned the Nabob for a Pension and the Nabob on 4 Rubbee Oossanee 1271, (25th December 1854,) did order a Pension of Rupees 5 per mensem, but it was never carried into effect and till the day of the Nabob's demise she never drew a pice. It was the unfortunate weakness of His Highness the late Nabob to be unable to refuse requests, and he would issue orders, not only with no intentions of having them carried out, but would even send to the Dewan Secret Counter Orders, forbidding him to carry out an order which he had but just given, or the order would be so worded as to prevent its being carried out. The order for pension not having been carried out by the Nabob himself, in his life time, the Dewan did not in his lists return Her name to Government as a Pensioner or Servant of the Sircar, and it seems to me impossible for the British Government to consider the pensionary Claims of a person, whom the deceased Nabob in his life time did not think it necessary to pension.

3. On her first Petition demanding of me to stop from the Pay of Mahomed Ibrahim and give to her Rupees 5 per mensem, I endorsed, "Request cannot be complied with," and I so endorsed for the following reasons.

It was the custom of the Sircar not to pension much, but in lieu thereof to nominate a person to the situation of the Servant deceased with the condition of giving support to some Member of the family of the deceased. In the Sircar service, it is estimated, there may have been found perhaps about 150 Servants with such conditions, exclusive of others regarding whom verbal arrangements had been made, also estimated at about 150 in number.

4. This Woman was one of these Cases. Her Husband demised on 7th September 1854, and on the 21st April 1855, her Son-in-law, Mahomed Ibrahim was entertained in his place, on the condition of giving support to this Petitioner, his Mother-in-law. But, any support given was arranged among themselves and the Bukshegherry Department never made any deduction from the present incumbent's pay, nor did the Woman ever complain or request such: and as the man is still a Sircar Servant, and the Agency has no control over nor ever interferes with any Sircar Servant, the Agency could not interfere in any matter pertaining to that man's affairs. But even if I had had the power, I would never have dreamed of deducting Rupees 5 per mensem; as the Salary he draws is only Rupees $8\frac{1}{2}$ per mensem; as, for his duties, as Thasildar of the Body Guard Stores, that Salary is but a remuneration for the labour to be performed, and it would have been un-reasonable by complying with this woman's request to leave him only Rupees $3\frac{1}{2}$ as the Salary of his Office.

5. Aware that the wish of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is to deal liberally with these people, it will be my pleasure to submit for favorable consideration the case of the Widow and the Orphan found left unprovided for; the Agency however, in all that regards these people has acted on the lists of Servants and Dependants which were furnished by the Dewan of the Durbar on the 18th December 1855, and submitted to Government in letter, No. 85, dated 20th December 1855. As those lists purported to contain the name of every such servant and such

dependant. This Petitioner's name was not entered in any list, and these lists having been furnished at a time when the probability is that they would be furnished correctly, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will recognize the necessity of great caution in now recognizing as a servant or dependant any person whom the Nabob himself did not enter on his own records, and whose name therefore was not furnished by the Dewan, and not submitted to Government, It is, of course, impossible for the Agency, without special orders, to recognize any one unless entered in those lists.

6. If the Right Honorable the Governor in Council would wish to have a list of all the persons of this class for whom support was recorded, it can be prepared, but the better plan for the Government and the Individuals would be, I think, to investigate each case as it arises and dispose of it.

7. Though fully cognizant of the existence of this class of people, I have not submitted the subject to Government because I am unable to recommend them as a class: and, that the matter has come to be submitted on a Petition. I do not recommend Government to take any general notice of these cases. In no individual can it be possible that the small pittance derived from the small paid, and ill-paid, and irregularly paid servant, was the sole or even an important part of the individuals means of support, and any general indiscriminating legislation could only have the effect of giving many small pensions where they were not required and at the same time of increasing the number of petty pensions. The duty of avoiding to increase such a class of Pensioners has been before noticed by me as injurious to the people themselves and not dignifying to the State. A large portion of these people, were amongst the Soldiery and in the Buksheegherry Department generally and if a verbal or written assignment have been made on a Soldier's pay, how small can be the portion so assigned, may be judged of, when it is remembered that the pay of the Soldier of Infantry was but Rupees 6, that of Artillery Rupees 7, and that of Cavalry, Rupees 10-8. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council, will recognize that, from the facilities which the Madras people enjoy, for petitioning, and the readiness and frequency with which they avail themselves of the same, there may not be any care left long unnoticed, though it is true that the strongest claims are not always possessed by those who most urgently and constantly Petition.

8. The present case is not one I can recommend, her Son, aged 13, will receive a Stipend of Rupees 3-8 till his 18th year, her deceased husband's brother has a Stipend of Rupees 22 per mensem; her daughter has been married for about 15 years to the man (Ibrahim Khan) who succeeded her husband, and who was to support her, and that man, still a servant of the Sircar is a pensioned Naigue of the Right Honorable the Governor's Body Guard, receiving Rupees 7 per mensem from Government; In the Woman's Petition there is not mentioned any of these points, and I regret to add that, during the time when most caution was required, her Brother-in-law Wahid Beg left this City without leave in company with others for Vellore: and their were circumstances to occasion suspicion as to his motives in doing so, I then drafted a letter recommending Government to withdraw his Stipend, but after hesitating for some time I destroyed it, as my evidence was incomplete.

(Signed) EDWARD BALFOUR,
Government Agent.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, No. 951; dated 7th November 1857.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council concurs with the Agent that this applicant has no claim on Government for a Pension. She must look for aid to her family.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

No. 951

For Fort St. George
7th Nov. 1857

To the Govt Agent at Chepauk — Dispd 11th