

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Police DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	723	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	12-12-1918	1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

723

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
for the month of December 1859.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 1. From Major P. T. SNOW, Assistant Government Agent at Chepauk; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 10th November 1859, No. 1633.

I have the honor to submit a list of Carnatic Stipendiaries, who are anxious to have their stipends commuted; my object in sending the names of these individuals, is to shew that the wish to commute their stipends, extends to every class of pensioners, of whatever age, or sex; and the almost impossibility of obtaining satisfactory information, such as that alluded to by the Honorable Court in their letter of the 30th April 1856, hereafter quoted from. All have ready proof of their respectability, and prospects, and even aged females, on the brink of the grave, have some relatives, to be benefitted. The small number of applicants, whose names have hitherto been submitted to Government, has not arisen from any deficiency of applications, but from the inability of this office, to spare sufficient time, with reference to more emergent business. The usual plea put forth by individuals, is insufficiency to meet the requirements of a family, the truth of which the Agency has always recognized in the case of small stipendiaries; but when it is considered, that under the Madras Government some 60,000 Sepoys exist, with their families, on Rupees 7 per mensem, subject to continual long marches, it becomes doubtful, whether the plea can be accepted, when put forth by recipients of that amount, and upwards, who are stationary, and have no travelling expenses.

2. I am also induced to submit for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, a memorandum shewing the average value of each Rupee of the Carnatic stipends when converted into a bonus, and exhibiting also, the amount for which the Government would become liable were the whole of the Carnatic stipends, so converted.

3. The cause of my requesting the attention of the Government to the subject, arises principally from the increasing number of applicants, and the consequent loss to Government from a continuance of conversion on the present system.

4. The memorandum shews that the average value of each Rupee of monthly stipend, according to existing rates, is Rupees 118 when converted, and each individual receives an equivalent to 10 years' income, without reference to his state of health.

5. The scale according to which payments are made, is that adopted by the Punjab authorities, and furnished to this Government in a letter from G. F. Edmonstone, Esquire, dated 14th August 1854, entered in Extract Minutes of Consultation, Political Department, dated 12th September 1854, No. 344.

6. In the 2nd paragraph of Mr. Edmonstone's letter, it will be seen that a limit was fixed, and so sums exceeding Rupees 20 per annum or Rupees 1-9-8 per mensem, was convertible at rates which are styled "life annuity rates," the paragraph in question runs as follows: "in reply I am directed to inform you that pensions not exceeding 20 Rupees per annum are alone commutable at life annuity rates, according to a scale originally determined by the Board of Revenue, (N. W. P.) and now printed in the Civil Auditor's (N. W. P.) manual as contained in paragraph 445, a copy of which is herewith forwarded." Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 68,

Age.	Value of one Rupee per annum.	Age.	Value of one Rupee per annum.	dated 19th of February 1855, sanctioned the application of this scale. The Honorable Court of Directors however in latter portion of paragraph 41 of their letter, No. 3, in the
Under 10 ... 13 Rupees		45 to 50 ... 9½ Rupees		
10 to 20 ... 12½ "		50 to 55 ... 9 "		
20 to 25 ... 12 "		55 to 60 ... 8 "		
25 to 30 ... 11½ "		60 to 65 ... 7 "		
30 to 35 ... 11 "		65 to 70 ... 6 "		
35 to 40 ... 10½ "		above 70 ... 5 "		
40 to 45 ... 10 "				

Political Department, dated 30th April 1856, without apparently taking into consideration that the rates entered in the fixed scale, were "life annuity rates" and only adopted for sums not exceeding 20 Rupees per annum, write as follows:

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"Almost all those whose cases are here brought to notice, were either already engaged, or intended to engage in industrious pursuits, and though such applications are likely to be chiefly made by those whose stipends are small, we see no reason against entertaining them when made, whatever may be the amount, provided due means are taken (as they appear to be) of ascertaining that the character of the applicant is respectable; that the purpose is not to squander the money, but to employ it profitably, and that there is a fair prospect of doing so."

7. It will be observed that neither in Mr. Edmonstone's letter, or that of the Honorable Court, is any allusion made to the health of individuals applying for commutation; but it is possible, with reference to the former, that owing to the smallness of the sum allowed to be commuted, bodily ailment and infirmities might not be considered, but with regard to the latter, where the commutation of large sums is sanctioned, and that at life annuity rates (for which large premiums are usually paid) the state of health of the parties should undoubtedly form the basis of the scale of payments. Mr. Balfour, being a Medical man, always kept the state of health of the parties in view, but with a non-professional man, an opinion on that point, must be necessarily, an arbitrary one.

8. With reference to the Court's remark in paragraph above quoted, that applications are likely to be chiefly made by those whose stipends are small, I would point out that such was not proved to be the case, and notwithstanding the precautions mentioned in Extract from Honorable Court's letter of the 30th April 1856, it has been ascertained, as alluded to in letter from E. G. Balfour, Esq., dated 23rd December 1858, entered in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 27, dated 11th January 1859, that of the recipients, not more than one half apply the money to useful purposes.

9. During the crisis of 1857-58 it was proposed by E. G. Balfour, Esq., in his letter dated 23rd July 1858, No. 1297, entered in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 524, dated 17th of August 1858, that commutations should be limited to recipients of 12 Rupees per annum. This recommendation arose from political motives, and was overruled by Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation above alluded to.

10. In paragraph 36 of the Honorable Court's letter, Political Department, dated 19th of April 1854, No. 1, the Court appear to consider that commutations, should, except for small sums, be dependant on the time the pension had been enjoyed, with reference to which opinion I am not aware that any limits have hitherto been sanctioned.

11. I consider it advisable that some date be fixed, after which no applications for commutation should be received, I would also suggest a limit as to amount commutable, and to the age of parties who may apply, since owing to the life of indolence in which most of these people are brought up, it is but just to infer, that after a certain age, they are not likely to change and assume habits of business.

12. I would also recommend the adoption of some restrictive rules regarding Gosha females (for whose subsistence but a small sum is necessary) who are perfectly at the mercy of their male relatives, and consequently liable at any time to be left destitute should they have commuted their stipends.

13. In conclusion I will briefly enumerate the several points in the above letter which appear to me to be deserving of attention.

1st.—Is the scale of rates now in use applicable to the commutation of large amounts; and if not, what is the largest sum which should be commutable by those rates, with reference to paragraph 2 of Mr. Edmonstone's letter.

2nd.—Is it advisable that large amounts should continue to be commutable with reference to the experience gained on the subject, and also with regard to the immense drain on the Treasury as shown in memorandum.

3rd.—In the event of commutations remaining unrestricted, should not health be taken into consideration and form the basis for regulating payments.

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for the month of December 1859.*

4th. With reference to Court's letter, 12th April 1854 above quoted, should some date be fixed after which the option of commuting stipends into bonuses should be withheld, since should such limits not be fixed upon, it will then be necessary to issue an order that the parties (included in classes 1 and 2 Appendix A of Mr. Balfour's report, dated 29th June 1854,) will by commuting their stipends disqualify their heirs, from any claim which they otherwise might have to the bounty of Government.

No. 2. From Major P. T. SNOW, Assistant Government Agent at Chepauk; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 10th November 1859, No. 1634.

With reference to letter from this office, No. 1633 of this day's date, I have the honor to submit to His Excellency the Governor in Council, the enclosed original letter* from Carnatic stipendiary Jahaneyah Begum, in the receipt of a monthly stipend of 50 Rupees; her husband Carnatic stipendiary No 247, Nusseer ool Moolk, is also in the enjoyment of a monthly pension of 300 Rupees. She prays that her stipend may be commuted. The Begum's age is about 57 years, and her stipend if commuted, would be 4,800 Rupees.

2. Under the circumstance of the case, I cannot recommend the Government to comply with her request.

No. 3. ORDER THEREON, 12th December 1859, No. 723.
The Assistant Agent in Chepauk propounds some questions relative to the commutation of Carnatic stipends.

2. These stipends are now commuted according to a life table adopted for that purpose in the Punjaub, and obtained from the Government of India, to whom this Government applied at the instance of the Court of Directors.

3. The commutation in the Punjaub was restricted to that of pensions not exceeding Rupees 20 per annum, but in the case of the Carnatic stipendiaries, the Court of Directors have authorized commutation being made without limit. In so doing, they wrote—Despatch 30th April, No. 3 of 1856, paragraph 41.—"We think it highly desirable to encourage a disposition on the part of the stipendiaries, to obtain by the commutation of their pensions, the means of engaging in profitable employment, as by so doing, they merge in the best, and most desirable way, in the general community. Almost all those whose cases are here brought to notice, were either already engaged, or intended to engage in industrious pursuits, and though such applications are likely to be chiefly made by those whose stipends are small, we see no reason against entertaining them when made whatever may be the amount, provided due means are taken, as they appear to be, of ascertaining that the character of the applicant is respectable, that the purpose is not to squander the money, but to employ it profitably, and that there is a fair prospect of doing so."

4. Major Snow now represents the great difficulty of ascertaining in the case of the majority of applicants whether the conditions required by the Honorable Court do or do not exist, the large number of applicants, the amount of the bonuses already sanctioned, and the sum which may have to be expended, should commutation continue. He then states several points which appear to him deserving of attention. The Government will notice them in the order in which they are put.

5. The Assistant Agent asks:
1stly.—Is the scale of rates now in use applicable to the commutation of large amounts; and if not, what is the largest sum which should be commutable by those rates?

6. The Government would remark on this that if the rates be correct as respects the commutation of small stipends, they must also be correct as regards the commutation of large ones. The values of men's lives do not differ according as they may be in receipt of large or small pensions. The scale should be adopted generally.

2ndly.—Is it advisable that large amounts should continue to be commutable with reference to the experience gained on the subject, and also with regard to the immense drain on the Treasury as shown in the memorandum annexed to the letter.

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7. The Government consider that, as a general rule, the commutation of stipends is highly desirable, and they perceive no reason for fixing any limit as to the amount of pension to be commuted. When however the stipend is large, it will be proper that the inquiry into the character and objects of the applicant should be of a more searching nature than when the pension is small; say under four Rupees per mensem, a sum insufficient of itself for a respectable maintenance.

8. Looking to the ignorance and helplessness of Gosha women, their stipends should not be commuted except those of very small amount, say not exceeding 2 Rupees a month, unless there be a strong probability that the money received as a bonus will really be employed for their advantage.

9. Again, when the applicant is advanced in age, say above 50 years old, and it is therefore unlikely that he will enter upon any new walk of life, commutation even in the petty pensions already referred to, should only be recommended on special grounds.

10. With these reservations and on these conditions the Government would not be disposed to discourage the practice of commuting stipends. The expenditure incurred from February to September of the current year, Rupees 68,000, does not appear to them great in comparison of the object to be attained.

3rdly.—In the event of commutations remaining unrestricted, should not health be taken into consideration and form the basis for regulating payments?

If the applicants be required to submit to a medical examination, this would probably deter any person from coming forward at all. At the same time, without exercising any minute scrutiny, the Agent should use some sort of discretion and refuse to recommend such as are notoriously in failing health and bad lives.

4thly.—With reference to Court's letter 12th April 1854, should some date be fixed after which the option of commuting stipends into bonuses should be withheld, since should such limits not be fixed upon, it will then be necessary to issue an order that the parties (included in classes 1 and 2 Appendix A of Mr. Balfour's report, dated 29th June 1854) will, by commuting their stipends, disqualify their heirs from any claim which they otherwise might have to the bounty of Government.

11. The Government do not perceive the force of this inquiry, nor do they see how the letter from the Court of Directors here quoted bears upon the subject. No doubt parties who commute do thereby disqualify their heirs from succeeding to their pensions or to any part of them. But of all the stipendiaries, those of 1855 must form nearly three-fourths, and all their pensions, except those of the immediate members of the family (some twenty) are life grants. Again, as regards the stipends of 1801, these have now run on for nearly 60 years, and should never be continued unless on very strong grounds. It was calculated by Dr. Balfour in 1854 that of the 1,200 stipends then existing, not above 89 had a claim to continuance on lapses. In respect to these few, the numbers of which are all given in the appendix to Dr. Balfour's letter of 29th June 1854, it will be proper to allow the next of kin a voice as to the commutation. It should at the same time in these few cases be distinctly intimated to such relatives that the reference so made to them in no way involves a guarantee for the continuance of the pension on lapses wholly or in part, which will be decided according to circumstances and at the discretion of Government on the lapses occurring.

12. With these observations the Government resolve to return to Major Snow his list, and to request him to submit a fresh one revised upon the principles above laid down.

13. With his second letter No. 1634, Major Snow forwards an application from a female pensioner who wishes to commute her pension of Rupees 50 per mensem. Her husband it seems is also a Carnatic stipendiary in enjoyment of a monthly pension of Rupees 300. The applicant is 57 years old. No reason is assigned by her for her wish to commute, and unless she can show strong grounds for her application, the Government must decline to accede to it.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT.

Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

*Note by if the
Governor's remark is
to be brought on
the Proceedings as
a minute.
no Mr. 9th*

Received on letters from the Assistant Agent
at Chapank dated 10th November 1859.
Gov 1853 & 1854.

The Assistant Agent at
Chapank propounds some
questions relative to the com-
mutation of Carnatic Stipends.
These Stipends are now
commuted according to a
life table adopted for that
purpose in the Punjab,
and obtained from the Govt
of India to whom this Govt

From Court of Directors 12 April 1854-P.36.
From Govt of India 25th Aug 1854.

Mr Throft's remarks appear to me to meet the Court of Directors.
Major Snow's difficulties in a satisfactory manner. Punjab was restricted to that
As a general rule of Pensions not exceeding 20 per centum but in the
the commutation of Pensions is desirable; case of the Carnatic Stipen-
but the Agent should diaries, the Court of Directors
hold his hand.

1st When the Agent has been authorised commutation
and state of health being

the arrangement serious
undesirable for the
Government; and
2. When there is
no reasonable
probability that
the money will be
properly invested for
the benefit of the
applicant or his
family.

The case of
"Lasha" Women
generally ~~will~~ comes
under the latter head.

The expenditure
~~under the former~~
(60000 rupees in six
months) has not
been large - and in
every point of view
the arrangement is so
desirable when the
circumstances are
favourable, that the
reimbursement advance

being, made without limit.
as doing, they wrote thus: Des-
patch 30th April No 3 of, 1854
para 41. "We think it highly
desirable to encourage a dispo-
sition on the part of stipendiaries
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of their pensions the means
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whose stipends are small,
we see no reason against en-
tertaining them when made,
whatever may be the amount,
provided

in my opinion, to be
made. As every
case is reported we
can exercise
our discretion

Lt Munger

vide
21 Nov 54

provided, due means are taken,
as they appear to be, of as-
certaining that the character
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4. Major Snow, now
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not exist - the large number
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which appear to him deserving
of attention, and asks:

1st As to the scale of rates, in use applicable to the commutation of large amounts, and if not, what is the largest sum which should be commutable by those rates, with reference to para 3 of Mr. Edmonstone's letter.

5 On this I would submit that if these rates be correct, as respects the commutation of small stipends, they must also be correct as regards the commutation of large ones. The values of men's lives do not differ according as they may be in receipt of large or small pensions. The rates, it appears from Mr. Edmonstone's letter of 25th August 1854, were determined by the Board of Revenue, North West Provinces. How they got them is not stated.

2nd

More on this list how submitted by Major Shaw is for the commutation of 123 Stipends to an aggregate bonus of R 42,106 - The ages of the applicants go as high as 75 - The stipends range from 12 annas to 10 R a month -

2nd Is it advisable that large amounts should continue to be commutable with reference to the experience gained on the subject, & also with regard to the immense drain on the Treasury, as shown in Memorandum.

6 It does not appear that the experience gained on the subject is such as to afford much ground for forming a conclusion - With respect however to the drain on the Treasury, it does appear that the amount paid in redemption of stipends from July to September of this year has been Rs. 68,522. It may therefore deserve consideration whether on this ground some restriction may not be advisable in the present state of the Finances.

3rd

3rd In the event of commutations remaining unrestricted, should not health be taken into consideration and form the basis for regulating payments.

7 If the applicants be required to submit to a medical examination, this would probably deter any person from coming forward at all. At the same time the Agent might use some sort of discretion and refuse to recommend such as are notoriously in failing health & bad lives.

8th With reference to Court's letter 12th April 1854 above quoted, - should some date be fixed after which the option of commuting stipends into Pensions should be withheld, since should such limits not be fixed upon, it will then be

necessary

necessary to issue an order that the parties (included in Classes 1 & 2 Appendix A of Mr Balfour's report dated 29th June 1854) will, by commuting their stipends, disqualify their heirs, from any claim which they otherwise might have to the bounty of Government.

8 There seems some confusion here. I cannot see that the letter from the Court of Directors here quoted is at all to the purpose. No doubt parties who commute do thereby disqualify their heirs from succeeding to their Pensions or to any part of them. But of all the Stipendiaries, those of 1855 must form nearly three-fourths, and all the Pensions, except those of the immediate members of

+ unless when the
men are very old

Recommend for commutation
without enquiry, all persons
below Rs. 2000 - but to
scrutinize narrowly the cir-
cumstances, objects and pros-
pects of all in receipt of large
pensions. From the Memo.
attached to his letter it will
be seen that of 1573 pension-
aries of 1855, 784 draw less than
4 Rs. each. It is a great object
to get rid of such petty pay-
ments.

13 With his second letter
N^o 1634 he has forwarded an
application from a female
pensioner, who wishes to com-
mute her pension of Rs. 50 per
mensem. The woman is 57 years
old, and the bonus would be
Rs. 4000. Major Snow does not
recommend commutation, &
probably it should not be

allowed.

allowed.

JF
12

Political Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following letter
from the Assistant Govern-
ment Agent at Chepauk.

(Dated under 10th November 1859,
No. L. 1633 and 1634.)

Order thereon 12 December 1859, No. 723.

The Assistant Agent
in Chepauk propounds some
questions relative to the com-
mutation of Carnatic Mi-
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2. These stipends are
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and obtained from the Go-
vernment of India to whom
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at the instance of the
Court of Directors.

The

3. The commutation in the Punjab was restricted to that of Pensions not exceeding Rupees 20 per annum but in the case of the Military Stipendiaries, the Court of Directors have authorised commutation being made without limit. In so doing, they wrote: Dated 30th April No. 3 of 1856, para. 41. "We think it highly desirable to encourage a disposition on the part of Stipendiaries to obtain by the commutation of their pensions, the means of engaging in profitable employment, as by so doing, they merge in the best and most desirable way, in the general community. Almost all those whose cases are here brought to notice, were either already engaged, or intended to engage in industrious pursuits and though such applications are

are likely to be chiefly made by those whose stipends are small, we see no reason against entertaining them when made whatever may be the amount, provided due means are taken, as they appear to be, of ascertaining that the character of the applicant is respectable, that the purpose is not to squander the money, but to employ it profitably, and that there is a fair prospect of doing so."

4. Major Snow now represents the great difficulty of ascertaining in the case of the majority of applicants whether the conditions required by the Honorable Court do or do not exist. the large number of applicants - the amount of the bonuses already sanctioned - and the sum which may have to be expended, should commutation continue.

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He then states several points which appear to him deserving of attention. The Government will notice them in the order in which they are put.

1. The Assistant Agent asks 1^{stly} Is the scale of rates now in use applicable to the commutation of large amounts; and if not, what is the largest sum which should be commutable by those rates.

2. The Government would remark on this that if the rates be correct as respects the commutation of small stipends, they must also be correct as regards the commutation of large ones. The values of men's lives do not differ according as they may be in receipt of large or small pensions. The scale should be adopted generally.

2^{ndly}

3^{rdly} Is it advisable that large amounts should continue to be commutable with reference to the experience gained on the subject, and also with regard to the immense drain on the Treasury as shown in the Memorandum annexed to the letter.

4. The Government consider that as a general rule the commutation of stipends is highly desirable - and they perceive no reason for fixing any limit as to the amount of pension to be commuted. When however the stipend is large it will be proper that the inquiry into the character and objects of the applicant should be of a more searching nature than when the pension is small, say under four hundred per annum, a sum insufficient

insufficient of itself for a respectable maintenance.

7. Looking to the ignorance and helplessness of Gorkha women, their stipends should not be commuted except those of very small amount say not exceeding 2 Rupees a month unless there be a strong probability that the money received as a bonus will really be employed for their advantage.

8. Again, when the applicant is advanced in age say above 50 years old - and it is therefore unlikely that he will enter upon any new walk of life - Commutation even in the petty pensions already referred to, should only be recommended on ~~very~~ special grounds.

9. With these reservations and on these conditions the Government would not be disposed to discourage the practice

practice of, commutation during the expenditure incurred from February to September of the current year Rupees 8,000 does not appear to them great in comparison of the object to be attained ~~only~~ in the event of commutations remaining unrestricted, should not health be taken in consideration and form the basis for regulating payments.

If the Applicants be required to submit to a Medical Examination, this would probably deter any person from coming forward at all. At the same time without exercising any minute sensitivity, the Agent should use some sort of discretion and refuse to recommend such as are notoriously in failing health and bad lived.

A. E.

With reference to
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of Mr. Balfour's report
dated 29th June 1854)
will, by commuting
their stipends, disquali-
fy their heirs, from any
claim which they other-
wise might have to
the bounty of Government.

The Government do
not quite perceive the force
of this inquiry, nor do they
see how the letter from the
Court of Directors here
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subject. No doubt parties
do commute, do thereby
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of all the Stipendiaries, those
of 1855 must form nearly
three-fourths, and all their
pensions, except those of
the immediate members of
the family (some twenty) -
are life grants. Again, as
regards the stipends of 1854,
these have now run out
for nearly 10 years, and
should never be continued
unless on very strong grounds.
It was calculated by Dr.
Balfour in 1854 that of
the 1,200 stipends then ex-
isting, not above 89 had
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12. With these observa-
tions the Government re-
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13. With his second letter
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unless ~~the case~~ ^{she can} show
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ment must decline to
proceed to it.

Isr. Report [referred to] }
with the original enclosures }
18/10/34

4/11/34

Col. D. C. ...

Feb. 1359. Cap.

N^o 723

Proceedings of Govt

of 12th December 1859

163

Communicated to the Assistant
agent in Chepauk the observations
of government on the questions pro-
pounded in his letter of the 10th Ultimo
relative to the Communication of
Carnatic stipends - return to Major
know his list and request him to
submit a fresh one revised upon
the principles laid down - declined
to accede to the application of
Major for the Commuta-
tion of his pension of Rs. 50.
per mensem.

28th
9 Dec