

Political (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 865

DATED 19th Dec. 1895.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

BHAVANI BOI SAHIB'S PENSION

Declining to raise --.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1836						
	917						
00256 + 3							
60499							
562,581/21/98							
778/98							

FROM

BHAWANI BOI SAHIB

DOWAGER OF

RAJASREE YEKOJEE MAHARAJH OF

MADHIARJUNAM

GRANDSON OF H. H. AMEERSING MAHARAJH OF

TANJORE.

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

IN COUNCIL.

Dated

Despatched

Received

1895.

ENCLOSURES 3.

SUBJECT.

The Memorialist prays, for the many cogent reasons adduced in this memorial, that her present monthly stipend of Rs. 500 be raised to Rs. 1000.

To

The Right Honourable
The Governor of
Fort St. George, in Council.

THROUGH

The Government Agent, Tanjore.

*The humble Memorial of Mahraj Mathoosri
Bhawani Boi Sahib, dowager of the late
Rajah Sree Yekojee, Prince of Madhiar-
junam-Tanjore and grand-son by adop-
tion of His Highness King Ameersing
Maharajah of Tanjore:—*

May it please Your Excellency,

It is hereby most respectfully submitted that Your Excellency's humble memorialist is the dowager of the late Rajah Sree Yekojee Maharajah of Madhiar-junam, having lost her husband in the year 1885.

My husband's adoptive father, Rajah Sree Prataup Sing Maharajah died in 1849. Printed copy of the memorial of Rajah Sree Yekojee to the Governor of Madras in Council. (Vide para 4 of the enclosure No. 1 herewith submitted and marginally noted.) But with him his stipend Rs. 7291 per month was stopped. And it was not until October 1872, the long period of 23 years after, that my husband was granted a pittance of Rs. 1000 per month; (Vide enclosure No 2 herewith submitted and marginally noted)-when in fact under the eighth Article of the Treaty of 1799 concluded between the Honourable East India Company and H. H. Raja Surfogee of Tanjore marginally recited (Vide para 3 of enclosure No. 1) my husband was legally and rightfully entitled to the full annual stipend of Rs. 7291, allowed to his father Prataup Sing Rajah, a statement the truth and justice of which will be apparent to Your Excellency when the cogent reasons adduced by my husband himself in paras 4 and 8 of enclosure No. 1 are taken into consideration.

Copy of the communication, by the Government Agent Tanjore to Rajah Sree Yekojee, of the sanction of a stipend of Rs 1000 per month.

It is stipulated and agreed that the sum of twenty-five thousand Star Pagodas shall in all cases be appropriated to the support of the late Rajah Ameer Sing Gee, and shall be considered as a charge on the Revenues to be deducted previous to the calculation of the proportion of one fifth above mentioned. The residue of the Revenue after the foregoing deductions shall be at the disposal of the said company.

3. Also as can be perceived from para 12 of the same enclosure No. 1 my husband, to use his own heart-rending expressions;

“ Had not only been obliged to dispose of his family jewels, but had been compelled lately to sell a portion of his Government Promissory Notes to discharge the debts incurred by him to support himself and his family with any decency in these hard days. ” If such was the case after a stipend of 1000 Rupees per month was granted to him from 1st October 1872, the difficulties and misery that he experienced and which I had to share along with him as his partner in life, may be better conceived than described. My jewels were sold by him during his life-time, as a very few of them still left with me are now sold by me—a fact alluded to in my husband's own words “His family jewels” above quoted. Even the Govt. Promissory Notes above-mentioned were to a despicable amount—scarce worth mentioning.

4. It requires no elaborate proofs to convince Your Excellency that my husband's sufferings during his life have redounded to me after his death with crushing weight and force—for the simple reasons (1) that if he was helpless as a prince I am much more so as a widowed princess. (2) that if he had many jewels to sell to meet his pressing demands, I have very few at my disposal to sell to meet my own, (3) and that, if he was under obligation to maintain numerous old faithful followers and dependents, to say nothing of close, respectable relatives such as his natural father and nephew, both of whom are related by blood to Sivajee (founder of the Mahratta Empire) and are still surviving and living with me, I am still more under the same obligation to maintain them, because true love and fidelity can never be estranged by poverty, time or distance.

5. In short, many mouths are to be fed before mine can have a morsel of food; and even though as a widow, I have outlived my husband so long *i.e.*, for about 10 years, yet alas! have I not outlived his misery—a circumstance all the more painful to me when I reflect that throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire peace and happiness are supreme and enjoyed by every mortal, however lowly his position; and that, even in spite of the proclamation of Her

Gracious Majesty the Queen in Council to the Princes, Chiefs, and people of India—1st. November 1858 “We hereby announce to the Native Princes of India, that all treaties and engagements made with them, by or under the authority of the *Honourable East India Company*, are by us accepted, and will be scrupulously maintained; and we look for the like observance on their part.....We shall respect the rights, dignity, and honour of Native Princes as Our own; and we desire that they as well as our subjects, should enjoy that prosperity and that social advancement which can only be secured by internal peace and good government,” should be neglected in the case of a widowed helpless Begum belonging to the once illustrious Royal House of Tanjore, the indebtedness to which on the part of the English for its faithful alliance and kind offices during times of trouble and the Carnatic wars of the last century has so nobly called forth from no less a personage than Lord Clive the following sentiments, “The grace of generosity cannot be conferred with greater effect than on the descendants of those whose alliance has contributed to the foundation of our present greatness in India, and if the mere considerations of rigid economy, should require the suppression of these sentiments of national magnanimity, it will yet be necessary to the policy and honour of the British Govt. that some immediate arrangements should be made to encourage by substantive proofs, the faith of our allies in the justice and liberality of our conduct. The augmentation of our territorial revenues by the possession of Tanjore, justifies in our opinions the indulgence of these sentiments; and we should deem it to be an ill-judged economy in the eyes of India which should contract the advantages we derive from the arrangements with degradation of any part of the House of Bhonsla.” Extract from Lord Clive’s letter to Marquis Wellesley K. B. 20th May 1802.

6. It is respectfully submitted that the revenues of the Tanjore kingdom at the present day are much more than what they were during the time of the late king Surfojee of Tanjore when about a lac of Rupees per month was allowed to the Maharajah of Tanjore—thus showing that the Public Exchequer will by no means suffer by allowing me a proper monthly stipend suited to keep up the dignity of a widowed Begum belonging to the Royal House of Tanjore the last male representative of which was my husband, (Vide Genealogical table, enclosure No. 3 herewith submitted.)

Lands have I none, leaving out of account some small estate yielding less than Rs. 200 per annum. The palace buildings at my disposal cost me much for their maintenance in proper order and illumination in the night. Numerous, old, faithful dependants and close, respectable relatives are to be maintained—since they and their ancestors have clung to our family from the time of H. H. Ameer Singh, the Ex. King of Tanjore who reigned for 12 years in Tanjore. In such circumstances my monthly expenses amount to Rs. 1050. Your Excellency is not to suppose for a moment that my servants, steward &c are handsomely paid—on the other hand far from it. The whole palace is in fact now maintained upon a sort of severe starvation allowance—since its grandeur once kept up by the British Government by allowing a stipend of Rs. 87500 per annum has been prostrated in the dust by the very low stipend of Rs. 500 per month, now allowed to me.

8. In short, my sufferings are great and apt to move to compassion the heart of Your Excellency and of even Her Majesty the Empress of India, should she know them. Little does she dream that a widowed princess, at least of the same sex as herself, very bitterly suffers the pangs of poverty and crushing want and pines silently in the royal mansion of Madhiarjunam in contemplation of the blessings of the British Government held out by the Proclamation of the Queen on 1st November 1858 and truly tasted even by the poorest of the poor throughout the length and breadth of India and in apostrophising,

9. As already alleged in para 7 of this memorial, my monthly expenses can, with the strictest economy, never be carried below 1050 Rs. Also as stated in paras 3 and 4 of the same my husband’s sufferings and debts have redounded to me with crushing weight.

10. In conclusion, I most humbly beg to submit that this will be probably the last memorial from me to Your Excellency, considering my advanced life and helpless condition. Also, actuated by no sinister or ambitious motives, but only the most lowliest of motives, viz rendering the short remainder of my life a little easy and comfortable not only to me to my numerous old faithful servants and respectable relatives, I beg that Your Excellency in council will kindly in my behalf recommend to the Governor-General in Council the raising of my present stipend to Rs. 1000 per month.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

For Your longevity and prosperity,
Your Excellency’s humble Memorialist,

श्री राजपताप

October 1895.

MADHIARJUNAM.

Genealogical Table referred to in para 6 of the Memorial.

TANJORE GOVT. AGENT'S OFFICE
Vullam 24th February 1873.

No. 38.

FROM

W. M. CADELL ESQUIRE

GOVERNMENT AGENT AT TANJORE.

TO

R. YAIKOJEE

MADHIARJUNAM.

SIR,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Viceroy and Governor General in Council has sanctioned the grant to you of a pension of Rs. 1000 per mensem for life for the support of yourself and your immediate family.

2. This allowance is to have effect from 1st October 1872.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed)

W. M. CADELL
Govt. Agent.

FROM
GOVERNMENT AGENT.
TANJORE.

Dated 24th February 1873.

Informing the grant of 1000Rs.

Enclosure—No. 2

The communication, by the Government Agent Tanjore, to Rajasree Yekojee, of the sanction of a stipend of Rs. 1000 per month.

(Enclosure No: 1)

In a letter

From

The Government Agent

Tanjore

To

The Chief Secretary

to Government

Political Department

Madras

Dated 28 November 1895

No: 141

Abstract

Memorial of Mr. Bhava-

-ni Boi Sahib of Madhian-

-junam praying for the

increase of her allowance

from Rs 500 to Rs 1000 per

ensem.

Tanjore Government Agent

20th November 1895.

Despatched 29th Nov 1895

From G. Stokes Esquire,

Government Agent,

Tanjore.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Political Department,

Madras.

Sir, I have the honor to forward herewith with the following — observations, ^{the} Memorial from Mr. Bhavâni Boi Sâheb of Madhianjunam wherein she prays for the increase of her allowance from Rs 500 to Rs 1000 per mensem.

2. (i) Her husband Ry. Yêkôji was in receipt of a monthly allowance of Rs 1000 (Government Order No. 68 dated 19th February 1873, Political.)

ii On his demise in 1885, an allowance
of Rs 250 was first granted to the
Memorialist (Government Order
No. 632, dated 14th September 1885,
Political) and afterwards it was
augmented to Rs 500 (Government
Order No. 92, dated 7th February
1887 - Political). She is now in
receipt of Rs 500 per mensem.

iii The allowance of Rs 1000 granted
to Ry. Gekôji was not declared
heritable and the allowance
of Rs 500 granted to the Memorialist
appears to have been allowed
more as a matter of grace than
as a matter of right.

3. Under these circumstances,
I am unable to support the
Memorialist's

Memorialist's prayer.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

For Government Agent.

RS

G.O. 146: 10.4.72 S.B.
 " 8: 8.1.73 S.B.
 " 68: 19.2.73 S.B.
 " 632: 14.9.85 Min
 " 501/2 28.7.85 Min
 " 1015/16: 29.8.86 S.B.
 " 92: 7.2.87 Min

[G.]
 25
 1,000-5-11-93

Political DEPARTMENT

C. No. 1705.

From

The Government Agent
 Tanjore

To

The Chief Secretary
 to Government
 Political Department
 Madras

Dated 28 }
 Received } November 1895

En: one
 CHIEF SECRETARY
 No: 1705
 29 NOV. 1895
 Subj: Memorial

Submitting the Memorial
 of En. Bhavani Bai Sahib of
 Madhwarajam praying for the
 increase of her allowance
 from Rs 500 to Rs 1000 per
 mensem.

HO
 in papers
 2/12

FOR ORDERS.

The Govt. Agent, Tanjore,
 submits a petition from Bhavani Bai
 Sahib, widow of Yakoji ^e ~~Rajah~~ in which
 she prays that her present monthly sti-
 pend of Rs.500 may be raised to Rs.1000.

Yakoji ⁱ was the adopted son
 of Rajah Pratappa ^{1/5} ~~Pratap~~, son of Ameersing, ^s
 who for over 12 years occupied the
 Tanjore musnad. ^{Yakoji} He claims to any por-
 tion of the stipend (Rs.87500) drawn by
 his adoptive father were at first re-
 jected by the Madras Govt., the Govt.
 of India and the Court of Directors.
 Subsequently, in 1872 ^a representation
 was made on his behalf to the Govt. of
 India, and he was granted a pension of
 Rs.1000 per mensem for life for the sup-
 port of himself and his immediate family.
 A complete history of Yakoji ⁱ 's claim
 will be found in the letter of 10th
 April 1872. On his death in 1885, his
 widow, the present petitioner, was
 granted a sum of Rs.1500 to meet the
 funeral expenses of her husband and a
 life pension of Rs.250 ^{per m} for herself. This
 pension was in 1887 raised to Rs.500 per
 mensem.

* Letter No.146, d./ 10-4-72.

G.O.No.68, d./ 19-2-73.

G.O. 501/2 d/ 28.7.85 ^D
 - 632 d/ 14.9.85 ^E

G.O.Nos.1015-16, d./ 29-11-86.
 G.O.No.92, d./ 7-2-87.

The

petition
The present ~~objection~~ consists mostly of a recapitulation of the past correspondence on the subject. As pointed out by the Govt. Agent, the allowance of Rs. 500 enjoyed by the petitioner was granted as a matter of grace and there is nothing in the ~~present~~ petition which calls for a reconsideration of the previous orders. The petitioner has, in fact, received very liberal treatment. It is proposed to say:-

Re: Bhavani Bai Sahib's pension.

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE.

ORDER *N^o 865 of 11/12/95*

The Govt. regrets that it cannot comply with the petitioner's request.

C.S. 11.12.95 *14/12/95*

Des
CA
17/12

This case has been carefully considered on two previous occasions, and the pension doubled on the second. Under these circumstances - I do not think a third re-consideration should be allowed to alter the previous decision.

Ck 2.12.10
17 Dec

Let: Agent - Jangar - 9
for com- to the petitioner
Desp'd
21/12

C/14/12

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

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.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

N.B. -

A = Copy in full.
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P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only