



( Copy. )

( Notes in the For. & Poll. Deptt. )

P.P. 172-G.

From the Government of the United Provinces.

No. 3315.

Dated the 25th. ( Recd. the 29th ) November 1920.

Makes certain suggestions in regard to the payment and commutation of certain small pensions and ground rent drawn by members of the Benares branch of the ex-Royal Family of Delhi.

The U.P. Government suggest

- (a) that, with a view to simplifying accounts, when a succession to a pension occurs, the nearest rupee should be taken in the division of the pensions,
- (b) that pensions below Rs. 5 should be commuted at the rate laid down under the rule in paragraph 14 of Board's Circular 2-VI (United Provinces), and
- (c) that the ground rent paid in certain specific cases should be commuted, if the recipients are agreeable, at the rate stated at (b) above.

2. There appears to be no objection from our point of view to the suggestion at (a) and we may sanction this provided the Finance Department concur.

3. As regards (b) - in November 1914, the United Provinces Government was authorised to commute political hereditary pensions not exceeding Rs. 5 a month on the understanding that no compulsion is employed. The rate of commutation was fixed at 25 years' purchase or 20 years'. It appears from the present letter that the local Government are compulsorily commuting such pensions and in our reply we might draw their attention to the orders that such pensions should not be compulsorily commuted.

The Board circular 2-VI(U.P.) in accordance with which that Government now wish to commute these pensions is not readily traceable in this Department and we are therefore

x p.20 of corr.  
in G.B. March  
1915, No.44.

G.B. March 1915,  
No. 44.

not in a position to offer any remarks on this suggestion. The proceedings cited in the margin contain a very comprehensive note by the Finance Department on the commutation aspect of pensions and that Department, who probably have a copy of the circular referred to, may be asked kindly to favour us with their views on this suggestion.

4. In regard to the third suggestion of the local Government, it is regretted that the letter of 12th March 1889, which probably gives the origin and history of this ground rent, is not traceable. (The Finance Department may probably be able to trace this paper). Prima facie there seems no objection to applying to this suggestion any decision reached in regard to (b) of para. 1 supra.

Sd. J.W.B. 10-1-21.

Sd. G.M.C. 12-1-21.

Sd/- K.S. Fitze,

14-1-21.

Sd/- G.D. Ogilvie,

15-1-21.

Finance Deptt.

The U.P. Govt. makes certain recommendations, summarised as (a), (b) and (c) on page 1 ante, regarding the distribution and commutation of the hereditary pension of the Benares branch of the ex-Royal family of Delhi. These are supported generally in the F. & P. Deptt.

2. Proposal (a). - It is proposed that when a succession occurs the nearest rupee should be taken in the division of the pension, i.e. a sum above -/3/- should be counted as Re . 1/- and below -/3/- neglected. This effects a saving of -/13/2 in the present instance and may be agreed to.

3. Proposal (b). - If the administrative Deptt. see no objection to the commutation except that commutation should not be compulsory, we need not object either, and need consider only the rate at which the commutation should be

made

In no case will it cause an excess over the original pension.

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made. A copy of the U.P. Board's circulars obtained from R. & A. Deptt. is put up. The local Govt. prefer to follow Rule 14 of Circular 2-VI and say that under it the commutation value of a pension of Re. 1 per month amounts to Rs. 240. That is, the number of years' purchase is 20 ( $= 1 \times 12 \times 20$ ). But this rule was amended in correction slip No.6, dated 1-4-1916 according to which the rate is now 25 years' purchase, and which the local Govt. has apparently overlooked. In F. & P. Deptt. letter dated 2-12-1914 the Govt. of India allowed 25 years in the case of 'all hereditary political pensions' in U.P. (which term apparently includes the pensions now in question), and in 1917 and 1918 agreed to the same rate in the case of certain cash allowances in U.P., and all hereditary political pensions and hereditary jagirs in the Punjab. We may do the same here, that is, agree to Rule 14 of the U.P. circular 2-VI, as amended by correction slip No.6, dated 1-4-1916, which the local Govt. has apparently overlooked, being followed.

4. Proposal (c).— Here also as in (b), we may agree to commutation at 25 years purchase. The papers of 1889 are not traceable in the Deptt. As the commutation is to be optional, the question whether there is anything in the papers against commutation does not perhaps matter, but this point is for the F. & P. Deptt. to satisfy themselves about.

5. Sanction of the Secy. of State is not required to (a), (b) and (c)., but the facts may be brought to the notice of the India Office as they are supplied from time to time with reports in pursuance of the request in para. 6 of Secy. of State's despatch No.42-Political, dated 7th

B. Genl. March, 1915  
No. 44, p. 20/c

A. Genl. June 1909, Nos. 63-64 p. 2 c/A. May 1909.

Sd. K.S.S. 26-1-21.

Sd. V.K.L. 27-1-21.

Sd/- A.F.L. Brayne,  
29-1-21.

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For. & Pol. Deptt.

Draft submitted.

Reference para. 5 of Finance Deptt. note. - The U.P. Govt. will send in a report in may this year and are sure to notice the present arrangements therein. In any case the matter will not be lost sight of in any communication made to the S. of S. in regard to this family.

Sd. J.W. B. 1-2-21.

Sd. G.M.C. 2-2-21.

Sd/- K.S. Fitze,  
3-2-21.

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True copy.

*J. Banerjee*

*J.S.* Superintendent,  
Foreign and Political Department.

*M*

of 321/23

*Recd*

End: from the Foreign Political Deptt. No 271 G  
2/16-2-21- Recd 17-2-21.

End: put up with fair copy for  
signature.

*bss*

20-2-21.

*W. C.*

21-2-21

U.S. (with)

End: to the Secy. U.P. 23/1-21  
No 373 U.P. 24-2-21

*J. Banerjee*

( Copy. )

No. 3315.

From

The Hon'ble Mr. M. Keane, I.C.S.,  
Chief Secretary to Government, United Provinces,

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,  
Foreign and Political Department.

Dated Allahabad the 25th November 1920.

Sir,

Political  
Department.

I am directed to say that Mirza Latif Bakht, a member of the Benares Branch of the Ex-Royal family of Delhi, died at Benares on the 15th January 1920. The deceased was in receipt of Rs. 44-13-2 per mensem as a Political pension and Rs. 5-13-4 per mensem as ground rent. The pension forms part of the pensions referred to in the Secretary of State's Despatch No. 42-Pol., dated the 7th May 1909, by which the rule requiring resumption of one third of the original pension in case of succession is suspended. The ground rent forms part of the sum of Rs. 35/- per mensem referred to in paragraph 6 of this Government's letter No.148/IV-350-23, dated the 12th March 1889. This Government has sanctioned the continuance of the pension and the ground rent in full to the heirs of the deceased as follows :-

Name.	Age about years.	Political pension.			Ground rent.		
		Rs.	as.	p.	Rs.	as.	p.
1. M. Shahood Bakht, son	20	8	-	2 - 5	1	-	0 - 10
2. Mt. Majida Sultan Begam, daughter.	18	4	-	1 - 2	0	-	8 - 6
3. Mt. Halima Sultan Begam, daughter.	16	4	-	1 - 2	0	-	8 - 6
4. M. Asad Bakht, son	13	8	-	2 - 5	1	-	1 - 0
5. M. Babar Bakht, son	8	8	-	2 - 5	1	-	1 - 0
6. Mt. Hafiza Sultan Begam, daughter	7	4	-	1 - 2	0	-	8 - 6
7. M. Khurd Bakht, son	6	8	-	2 - 5	1	-	1 - 0

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2. The Agent to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for Benares has represented to this Government that complications arise in accounts and in making payments by dividing the pensions into annas and pies. He has suggested that in future when a succession to any pension occurs, the nearest rupee should be taken, eight annas or more being reckoned as a rupee and anything under eight annas neglected. In the present case this procedure will involve a reduction of Rs. ~~13~~ 0-13-2 in a total pension of Rs. 44/- per mensem. I am to recommend the suggestion for the sanction of the Government of India.

3. In 1912 Sir James (now Lord) Meston decided that all pensions below Rs.5/- per mensem drawn by members of ~~the~~ the Benares Branch of the Ex-Royal family of Delhi should, as ~~in~~ in the case of pensions drawn under the Oudh Pension Rules, be compulsorily commuted as he was of the opinion that this was the minimum amount on which a person could live. The Agent has now asked at what rate the commutation of these ~~pensions~~ pensions should be made. In view of the special considerations affecting these pensions, the Agent considers that it would operate harshly if they were commuted as life pensions at the rate given in the Oudh pension rules. Under these rules the commutation value of a pension of Re. 1/- per mensem for a person aged 10 to 20, is Rs. 150. Under Appendix 10, Civil Service Regulations the commutation value of a similar pension is Rs. 224. Under the rule in paragraph 14 of Board's Circular 2-VI (United Provinces) the commutation value of a perpetual pension of Re. 1/- per mensem, is Rs. 240/- and this rate the Agent recommends for adoption. I am to commend the suggestion for the sanction of the Government of India.

4. The Sub-division of the ground rent in the present case involved a great deal of clerical labour and the Agent has suggested that the question ~~of~~ of commutation should also be considered. This Government is advised that it is doubtful whether compulsory commutation is possible in the case of this ground rent but the

recipients

recipients are likely to welcome such a proposal. As all the sums involved are below Rs. 5/- this Government would therefore propose now to commute the ground rents payable to numbers 1 and 2 provided the recipients agree and in the case of the minors to take similar action as they attain majority. The rate of commutation should be the same as that proposed in paragraph 3 above for pensions drawn under the Secretary of State's Despatch No. 42-Pol., dated the 7th May 1909.

I have, etc.,

Sd/- M. Keane,

Chief Secretary.

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True copy.

*M. Keane*

for Superintendent,

Foreign and Political Department.

ms

No. 271 G.

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321/20  
17.2.21

From

The Under Secretary to the Government of India  
in the Foreign and Political Department,

To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of the  
United Provinces.

Dated Delhi, the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1921.

Sir,

pp 1-3 ante

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 3315 dated the 25th November 1920, regarding the payment of allowances to certain members of the Benares branch of the ex-Royal family of Delhi, and to convey the sanction of the Government of India to the proposal that, in future, when a joint succession to any pension occurs, the nearest rupee should be taken (eight annas or more being reckoned as a rupee and anything under eight annas neglected) in making payments by dividing the pensions.

2. I am also to convey sanction to the commutation of pensions below Rs. 5/- per mensem under the rule in paragraph 14 of Board's circular 2-VI (United Provinces), as amended by correction slip No. 6 dated the 1st April 1916; which appears to have been overlooked. I am however to invite your attention to the letter from this Department, No. 2536-G dated the 2nd November 1914, where it is laid down that no compulsion should be employed in commuting political hereditary pensions.

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which state  
that 5 years  
purchase of  
the annuity  
at p. 30

A. Pension Nov. 214  
No 31-34 -  
p2c/W

3. Sanction is also accorded to the proposal made in the 4th paragraph of your letter under reply on the understanding that no compulsion is employed in the commutation of this

ground

for branch  
915 Nov 24  
prop

marks  
17-2-21

ground rent.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

*W.S. Ridge*

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Copy of correspondence forwarded to the Finance Department, for information.



( With one s.c. and a copy of notes. )

*GA*  
*Received 22/2/21*

*No 373-EP 24/2/21*

*Forwarded to the A.C. UP with reference*

*pro/W* *to F.D. end: No 1574 EP 2 10. 11. 1914.*

*By Order etc.*

*Q.S.S.*  
*21.2.21*  
*W.S.*  
*21.2.21*

*Jy 23/21*

*W.S.*