

1924

arrate

KENYA

163

C. D.
49512
20 OCT 24

NAME
RODRIGUES, S.R.

DATE
24th September 1924.

OR CIRCULATION :-

Mr. *Leffers*

Mr.

Mr.

Asst. U.S. of S.

Perm^t U.S. of S.

Part^r U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

PENSION.

States as to straitened circumstances owing to inadequacy of pension awarded, and asks that reassessment, on shilling basis, be made.

Previous Paper

505
439287
26

MINUTES

As regards the basis of payment see para 3 of despatch on ^{Treas} 51807 EA in accordance with which Mr. Rodrigues must continue to be paid at 15 rupees to the pound.

Certain increases to pensioners living in India who retired before 1st April 1920 were approved on ^{Treas} 5095/24. Presumably Mr. Rodrigues has got the increase appropriate to his case.

British pension - how value the Council of Pensions committee

Any such increase, as from June 1924, follows practice of the local Govt of the part of India in which the pensioner resides (see ^{Treas} 5095 EA).

At the same time when sending the petition - 1920 (439287) the Government made a special provision for Mr. Rodrigues and made an order to give him an increased pension. This was before a general increase was approved.

Subsequent Paper

R 57289/25

15 DEC 1924 *my 5045726*

MINUTES.

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE.

See ref to Su. of 43928/20.
Refer to corres as to the basis of
payment & to corres as to increase
of pensions, and assume that Mr
Rodriguez has been paid the
amount appropriate to his case.

Whether Su desires to make
any further recommendation in this
case, or ask that in the meantime
the petitioners may be informed of the
position & that his petition is
under further consideration.

MJ

4.11.24

See on M1
50452/24
Kenya

CJJ 28/11/24

RECEIVED
20 OCT 24
COLL. OFFICE

463

Alders, 24th September 1924.

49512
20 OCT 24

To

The Right Honourable

J. H. Thomas, P. S., M. P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies,

Downing Street,

London, S. W.

Sir,

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43900
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I beg most respectfully to refer you to my petition of the 1st July 1920, addressed to Lord Milner, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, through His Excellency the Governor, Nairobi, relative to the award of a pension of £110 per annum and beg leave to place the following facts before you, praying that circumstances of real difficulty and hardship under which I labour may be sympathetically considered, and relieved.

2. I retired from Government service on 3rd November 1919 and I am paid my pension by the agents in India at the rate of Rs. 15 to the £, whereas those who retired subsequent to the change in currency are paid at the rate of 8 shillings to the Rupee.

3. In my humble opinion there is no justification in law for the differentiation in payment as between pensioners who retired prior to the change in the currency and those who retired subsequently in view of paragraph (2) of the article 3 of Kenya and Uganda (Currency) Order 1921, which I append below for ready reference.

" 3. (2) Where any contract entered into or instrument made before the commencement of this order provides for making of any payment in terms of rupees or florins the contract or instrument shall have effect as if for reference to any number of rupees or florins there were substituted references to twice that number of shillings."

4. The salaries of both were originally expressed in terms of East African rupees. If the rupee salaries were converted into shillings at the rate of 2 shillings to the rupee as per currency order of 1917, quoted above, my pension should also be deemed to have been so converted as both equally constitute the rupee liabilities of the Govt. converted into shillings. It is therefore quite evident that my case falls under the same ruling.

5. To further understand that pensioners who retired ^{Prior} to the change in currency and residing in Kenya are paid on shilling basis, and I regret to state that I cannot quite understand why the pensioners of the same Govt. residing in India should be paid on rupee basis. I think it is immaterial to the Govt. where the pensioner resides.

6. It is ^{not} well known how galling and deplorable my position has become on account of the rise in the cost of living which has brought me to a state bordering on starvation and it appears certain that there is no likelihood of the first necessities of life ever attaining the pre-war prices on account of increased ^{cost} of labour and other factors which are evidenced in various strikes taking place all over the world. The question of the pensions being inadequate in view of the very high cost of living is not exactly the point. The point lies in the fact that the ~~my~~ pensions are paid in so to say debased coin for it must be remembered that the pre-war purchasing value of the rupee has entirely vanished.

7. In his report to the Secretary of State dated the 2nd April 1919, Sir Alfred Lascelles stated that, if the conditions of service had been satisfactory before the war broke out, a comparatively small war bonus would be adequate to tide over the hardships entailed by the war and suggested therefore that special consideration should be shown to the Govt. officials in the matter

3.

of war bonus. And further urged that some permanent improvements in the conditions of service should be introduced at an early date. His suggestions as regards war bonus were approved in Lord Milner's telegram of 11th June ¹⁹¹¹ to the Governor and the question of calculating pension on war bonus was subsequently sanctioned.

8. My pension was, however, calculated without taking into account the amount of war bonus which I drew for about 3 years and house allowance. It is a general rule in the Colonial Service and is provided under the Superannuation Act that ~~the~~ free quarters (house allowance) should be counted for pension purposes. It was always understood at least by the old staff who joined the Govt. prior to 1909 ¹⁹¹¹ that they would not be debarred from this privilege. This view was taken by the Uganda Govt. and the following rule was made applicable to that Protectorate:

" Clerks serving at 31st April 1911 in the 1st and 2nd and 3rd grades will be allowed to count the value of their free quarters as pensionable even on promotion."

9. The Govt. has already accepted the moral obligation of affording relief to European pensioners by granting a scale of bonus of 50 % and over in the case of pensions below £850, and it is a matter of great regret that nothing has been done in the case of the subordinate staff whose condition is most deplorable. The cost of living in India has increased in the same proportion as in England and Kenya, and it is therefore equitable that proportionate relief should be granted.

10. Apart from I have stated before I beg to submit that my case is a peculiar and special one and I would therefore most respectfully urge you to give it your sympathetic consideration. In addition to the duties of the Book keeper I was called upon very frequently to carry out special duties for which no remuneration was given. I beg to cite the following cases as an example:

(1) Currency Board accounts. When the Currency Board

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in Council was put into force for the first time I was deputed to start a new set of books for keeping the accounts of the Board, which I did for a period of three years. When application was made for a bonus the following reply was received from the Currency Commissioners:

"Whilst expressing their appreciation of the work done by Mr. Rodrigues the Commissioners regret that they do not see their way to recommend him for a bonus."

(2) Reconciliation of Public Works Store accounts.

When the Treasury Examiner and the Accountant of P. W. D. had failed to reconcile the accounts I was specially detailed for this duty in Nairobi and after spending over a fortnight I had the accounts satisfactorily reconciled and the suggestions made by me for their proper accounting have since proved very satisfactory. When I submitted my claim for subsistence allowance the following minute was made by Sir Charles Bowring, then Treasurer:

"I regret very much that I can make no exception to the rule of the service. I am particularly sorry that I cannot pass this claim owing to the extremely satisfactory and efficient manner in which Mr. Rodrigues performed his special duties in connection with the P. W. D. accounts."

(3) Loan Accounts. I was given an allowance of

£60 per annum which was subsequently added to my salary. In this connection I beg to quote what the Ag. Governor said about my work.

"I most strongly support the Treasurer's recommendation. Mr. Rodrigues is an extremely able and conscientious accountant and his knowledge of the Colonial Financial Instructions and the local accounting regulations will be of the greatest value to the Govt. The loan accounts, which will in many ways be connected with the Protectorate accounts, will be rendered by different departments and statements will require to be prepared and annexed to the Protectorate estimates and accounts thus making it in my opinion preferable to

preferable that the work should be undertaken by an officer in the Protectorate service with an intimate knowledge of Govt. procedure rather than by an specially engaged accountant."

(4) Fencing accounts and Land Dept. I was detailed to report on Fencing accounts for the year 1908/9 and on the method of handling, custody and security of moneys paid by the public into the Land Dept.

(5) Protectorate Estimates. The preparation of the estimates, annually, for a period of over 15 years entailed heavy strain on me and I had even to assist the Treasurer at the discussion of the budget both at the Executive and Legislative Council meetings.

(6) Compilation of the Financial Reports. The yearly preparation of the various statements, with the exception of ^{those of} the Railway, annexed to the Financial Report had to be prepared by me. When I had to be invalided to India in 1915 on account of mental break-down the compilation of these statements and the preparation of the Estimates for 1916/7 had to be carried out by the Deputy Treasurer, himself, for want of competent assistants in the Book-keeping Section. I was asked to write the Financial Report for the year 1917/8 which, I am glad to state, was approved by the Treasurer and adopted. This work together with the ancillary statements is a work of special nature, demanding patience, energy and technical knowledge.

(7). Work under 5 Treasurers. I had the privilege of working under 5 Treasurers for a period of 28 years and all of them spoke of my work in the highest terms. I beg to attach a copy of certificate of service and a copy of a letter written to me by the much lamented Treasurer, W. A. Kempe.

II. The salary including loan allowance of 260 which I drew on retirement after a meritorious service of 28 years.

amounted to only £300 per annum. I understand that the Book-keeping Section is now under an European officer on a salary of £500 to £700 with European assistants to help him. From this you will gather that the Govt. saved on me by carrying out the work ~~now done~~ on a smaller salary.

12. I beg to state that I devoted the best part of my life 22 Years faithfully and loyally to the service of the Govt. specially in the early days of the Protectorate, when conditions of life were most trying and difficult. In consequence of this and chiefly due to hard work, necessitated by lack of good and competent assistants and special nature of duties I was compelled to perform to keep the prestige of the Treasury Dept. I was obliged to Retire from service broken down in health, mentally, at the early age of 44 years and on a pension which is absolutely insufficient to maintain a family of ten persons. The loss of health has incapacitated me from taking up even ordinary clerical work of a light nature, to add a few rupees to my scanty pension.
painful

13. It is very to me to think and realise that my colleagues, both junior to me in length of service and in pay, should now draw more pension than I am given, due to the fact that their pensions are paid on a shilling basis. We are for all intents and purposes servants of the same Govt. — children of the same

father and as such, ^{there} should be no differential treatment. In fact preferential treatment might have been given to those who had to bear the brunt in the early days of the Protectorate when conditions of life were most trying and difficult.

14. I beg to apologise for being lengthy and I would strongly appeal to you to earnestly consider my case as a special one, for reasons adduced above, by granting me at least the benefit of having my pension paid on shilling basis, as is done in the case of pensioners residing in Kenya, which benefit I assure you, Sir, will be greatly appreciated and will help me to some extent to relieve me from the distressing and most deplorable condition in which I am placed.

15. I am sending a copy of this petition to His Excellency the Governor, Nairobi, for information.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

S. R. Rodrigues

Late Book Keeper, Treasury, Kenya Colony.

S. R. Rodrigues,

Aldona Quitula Barden, GOA

Portuguese India.

Certificate of Service.

(True Copy)

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Name of officer -- Sebastian Rozario Rodrigues.
Position held and Dept. -- Book-keeper, Treasury, East Africa Protectorate.
Period of service -- From the 31st July 1907 to the 2nd November 1919.
Cause of termination of appointment. -- Ill health.

Efficiency:- In the service of the East Africa Protectorate Govt. Mr. Rodrigues stood out preeminently among the non-European staff. His work as a Book-keeper has been characterized by its neatness and accuracy. His knowledge of accounting and procedure and his memory for precedent have been invaluable. He has served the Government and his Department most loyally.

(s/d) W. A. Kempe.

Treasurer, East Africa Protectorate.

Nairobi, 15th January, 1920.

I thoroughly endorse Mr. Kempe's remarks and I speak from personal knowledge as Mr. Rodrigues served directly under me for ten years - from 1901 to 1911 - when I filled the post of Treasurer.

(s/d) G. S. Bowring.

Chief Secretary to the Government and at present
Acting Governor.

Nairobi, January 17th, 1920.

(True Copy)
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The Treasury, Nairobi 11th January 1980.

Dear Mr. Rodrigues,

It is with very great regret that I learn of your having been invalided from the service of the East Africa Protectorate Government, on account of the loss both to yourself and to the Govt.

As regards your appeal for special consideration in the matter of pension I sincerely wish that I could do something in the matter, but, as you are well aware, the regulations give me no loophole. I think however that you may feel hopeful that you will get the benefit ultimately of some increase in the rate of your pension on the existing scale, but no decision has yet been received as to what that increase is to be.

I have to thank you for your kind message of congratulations upon my appointment and I tender you my thanks for the able and loyal assistance you have given me as Book-keeper in the Treasury of the East Africa Protectorate and which I cannot expect to be replaced. I trust that a rest will restore your health and that you will enjoy your pension for many years to come.

Yours faithfully,

(S/D) W. A. Kempe.

Treasurer, East Africa Protectorate.