

and also on the grounds that the recognition of her late husband Jahāngīr as Nawāb was technically wrong, she in the same way as her daughter Shāh Jahān being in fact the legitimate ruler. Shāh Jahān Begam who had come of age on July 20th, 1858, and was entitled to be invested with administrative powers, herself came forward and assented to the investiture of her mother as chief, waiving all claims to the *masnad* during her lifetime. The British Government acceded to this and on 9th *Shawāl* 1276 (3rd March 1860) Sikandar Begam was formally installed as chief at Bhopāl by the Agent to the Governor General, Mr. Hamilton.

On 7th January 1861 Sikandar Begam visited the Viceroy at Jabalpur. Here in open *darbār* the Begam was presented with a *sanad* conferring on her the Berasia *pargana* confiscated from the Dhār State, the Viceroy, Lord Canning, addressing her with these words: "Sikandar Begam! Your Highness is very welcome at this *darbār*. I have long desired to thank you for the services which you have rendered to the Queen's Government. Your Highness is the ruler of a state which is conspicuous in history for never having been in arms against the British power; and lately, when that State was beset and threatened by our enemies, you a woman, guided its affairs with a courage, an ability, and a success that would have done honour to any statesman or soldier . . . . . such services must not go unrewarded.

"I now place in your hands the grant in sovereignty of the district of Berasia. This district was formerly a dependency of the State of Dhar, but Dhar has by rebellion forfeited all claim to it; and it is now given in perpetuity to Bhopal for a memorial of loyalty, under your wise and brave guidance in a time of trial. . . . ."

In November of the same year Sikandar Begam was invested with the G.C.S.I., at Allahābād.

In the same year she toured through India, visiting the cities of Benares, Jaunpur, Lucknow, Cawnpore, Agra, Delhi, Jaipur, Ajmer, Nimach and Agar. In 1862 Sikandar Begam received the *sanad* of adoption. In 1863 she again visited the Viceroy at Agra, stopping on the way at Gwalior, where she was entertained by Sindhia. In the next year she started on a pilgrimage to Mecca, accompanied by Kudsia Begam and Mian Faujdār Muhammad Khān, being the first Muhammadan ruling chief to visit the holy shrine. She returned on 10th June 1864.

In 1866 she for the third time visited the Viceroy at Agra, and afterwards went to Bharatpur, Muttra, Dholpur and Datia.