CHAPTER II

TENTATIVE INTERVENTION

There had been frequent disputes on the question of succession to the throne of Manipur. To avoid repetition of the succession revolts after his death, Gambhir Singh desired to nominate his successor during his own lifetime. He was convinced that it would be a matter of necessity on the part of the Government of Manipur to prevent anarchy and confusion which, in all probability, might take place in the event of his death unless an arrangement was made under the sanction of the British Government. Since the people of Manipur did not follow strictly the law of primogeniture, he could not dare to nominate Chandrakirti Singh, his infant son who was born to him in 1831, a few years before his death. The succession of Nar Singh, his favourite Senapati, was, therefore, almost a certainty. But in deference to the Raja's wishes, Nar Singh desired that prince Chandrakirti Singh should be the next successor. There still remained other pretenders - Tribhubanjit Singh, Jogindrajit Singh and Jaibir Singh, three of the nephews of Gambhir Singh, whose claims the Raja could not set aside so lightly. He invited the nobles of Manipur and the British officers, particularly Grant and Pemberton, to offer
their suggestions. This eventually led to the beginning of British intervention in the internal affairs of Manipur.

Tribhubanjit Singh, who had the strongest of claims, was the son of the ex-Raja Chourjit Singh. He was intelligent and discreet and would not be found deficient either in steadiness or in the capacity to take decisions. He, having resided for many years with his father at Nadia, had also the advantage of coming in contact with the British authorities. If the people of Manipur had been given the option he would have been selected undoubtedly. And if the memory of his father be considered the choice also must have gone on him. His father being the elder brother in point of descent, his claim was superior to that of the other two. But his open enmity with his uncle, the reigning Chief, distracted favours from those who had to support him in his candidature.

Tribhubanjit Singh, who was by that time at Sylhet, came to Manipur on June 2, 1825 and represented himself before Gambhir Singh. On his arrival, he appealed to his uncle for an adequate means of his subsistence and his candidature. But the Raja paid no heed to his entreaties and treated him harshly and went to the extent of not having any discussion on the matter with him. However, Tribhubanjit Singh, accompanied by his mother approached the Raja for the second time.

1. P.C., 7 November 1833, Nos.123-124; Grant to Robertson, 28 September, 1833.
2. P.C., 16 December, 1831, Nos.91-94; Memorial of Tribhubanjit Singh, 11 November, 1831.
3. Ibid.
but he was not given an interview. On the contrary, Gambhir Singh demanded from Tribhubanjit Singh two hundred rupees as a part payment of a debt incurred by his father and alleged that the prince had come there to avenge the defeat of his father. Extremely disgruntled Tribhubanjit Singh returned to Sylhet. But he could not forget the insult and indignities meted out to him by his uncle. He, therefore, began to act against Gambhir Singh which inevitably made him the arch enemy of the Raja.

The next nephew, Jogindrajit Singh, son of the ex-Raja Marjit Singh, who was also by that time at Sylhet, was an energetic young man. Major Grant believed him to be brave, intelligent and enterprising, but at the same time he considered him rash, headstrong and imprudent. Jogindrajit Singh, during his stay in Manipur, made no secret of his feelings of enmity towards the Raja, but exhibited them in the most open and undisguised manner up to the moment of his leaving the state, though the folly of such conduct was frequently pointed out to him. On his return to Sylhet Jogindrajit Singh also acted in a manner which incurred the displeasures of Gambhir Singh. The latter, therefore, could not forgive him and the question of his succession was dropped.

4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. P.C., 30 May, 1833, Nos.86-111; Robertson to Macnaghten, 8 March, 1833.
7. P.C., November 7, 1833, Nos.123-124; Grant to Robertson, 28 September, 1833.
8. Ibid.
As to the third nephew Jaibir Singh, the Jubarsaja, Mr. Robertson, Agent to the Governor-General, held the view that he was totally wanting in vigour and energy and, therefore, on the demise of Gambhir Singh, he was likely to be set aside and as such his case should not be favourably considered. Since he was in the good book of the Raja he would have been selected by Gambhir Singh as his successor had he not been blessed with a son of his own. This prince was a young man at his early twenties, retired and reserved but certainly not deficient either in common sense or personal courage. If a choice were to be made between Jogindrajit Singh, the selection, of course, would be in his favour.

After the perusal of the backgrounds of these nephews the authorities in Calcutta expressed their opinion, as to who among the nephews of Gambhir Singh was likely to be the successor. They were convinced that if any of these nephews be adopted as the Raja's heir and recognised by the British Government, there would be no doubt about his loyalty to the British as well as the loyalty of the people of Manipur to him. The Supreme Government, therefore, strongly urged that there was no immediate necessity for determining the individual who was to stand next in order of succession. The Government, further, considered that it might be better that Major Grant

9. Ibid.
10. P.C., 30 May, 1833, Nos.86-111; Robertson to Macnaghten, 8 March, 1833.
11. P.C., 7 November, 1833, Nos.123-124; Grant to Robertson, 28 September, 1833.
12. Ibid.
should take more time to calculate well the merits of the three individuals, from among whom the selection was to be made, before any positive order on the subject should be issued."

To avoid the difficulties of choosing the successor from among the above nephews, Major Grant suggested that the Supreme Government should consider the right of recognising Chandrakirti Singh as the next successor. If the Supreme Government did so, he believed the Raja would be pleased. In such a case, he further felt that a Regency had to be instituted to take charge of the Government of Manipur, if the Raja's death occurred during his son's minority. At the head of the Regency Grant desired to place Maisnam Mingol Kumudini Devi, the Maharani, a woman of sound judgement, masculine firmness, strong mind and discretion and a person suited for the occasion. She was to be assisted by Nar Singh, on whom Gambhir Singh had justly placed the utmost reliance and confidence. Major Grant was also convinced that many objections might be urged against the existence of a minority, but still it would be the only arrangement to satisfy the rival parties.

If on the other hand, the Government be of the opinion that the recognition of the Raja's son was a sufficient precaution, he thought it wise for the future tranquility of Manipur that the succession be recognised publicly. Robertson, examining Grant's suggestion, observed: "Regarding the succession of

13. Ibid.
14. P.C., 19 December, 1833, Nos. 85-93; Robertson to Macnaghten, 5 October, 1833.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
Manipur all that I thought desirable was that the local authorities should be provided with instructions for their guidance in the event of an accidental vacancy." He therefore, recommended that in the event of the sudden demise of the Raja the British officers in Manipur should be authorised to proclaim immediately his infant son as the successor and the Maharani as the Regent."

Before a final decision was arrived at as to whom the guddi of Manipur be handed over after him, Gambhir Singh died on, 9 January 1834, at the age of forty six. Subsequently, Mrs. Robertson reported to the Supreme Government that since measures for placing Chandrakirtti Singh on the guddi, having been spontaneously adopted by the influential members of the Durbar, including Nar Singh, with the apparent concurrence of the people, he should immediately be recognised as Raja of Manipur with a Council of Regency at its head during his minority. The Governor-General in Council approved the suggestion. To prevent any attempt that might upset the latter's authority and endanger British influence, the Supreme Government also made a public avowal of its determination to uphold the infant Raja and its intention to punish any parties attempting to dispossess him. Thus, impending danger from a probable war of succession was averted and perfect order prevailed in Manipur.

17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
The Governor-General remarked: "It is not my intention to enter into the various subjects adverted to in Major Grant's report but merely to observe that the measures adopted on the occasion of it appear to have been judicious and everything seems to promise a state of tranquility for the future."  

However, the question of choosing a Regent for the infant Raja became a problem to both the Government of Manipur and the Government of Bengal. Mr. Robertson, supporting Grant's view, as stated earlier, recommended the Maharani to be the head of the Regency. The people of Manipur, although willing to bestow the Maharani all the honours and emoluments of a queen, did not cherish the idea of being governed by a woman. They preferred Mar Singh and wanted him to be entrusted with the guardianship of the infant Raja. Moreover, they believed that his good sense might give every promise of benefit to Manipur. His loyalty to the late Raja and his conduct towards his infant nephew confirmed the good opinions already entertained of him. The people of Manipur, therefore, desired that Mar Singh should be appointed officially as the Regent by the Supreme Government. Such an official recognition of his Regency would make all classes of people in Manipur feel secure. In a discussion with Mar Singh, at which Grant, Pemberton and Gordon were present, Grant proposed that some

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21. P.C., 3 April, 1834, Nos.127-128; Robertson to Frevelyan, 27 February, 1834.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
other influential men should be associated with Nar Singh in the Regency, but the Senapati refused. The Senapati and other Sirdars' plea was that a divided authority was against the custom of the country. The point was, therefore, not pressed lest it might give rise to future quarrels and disputes among themselves. Thus, Nar Singh was appointed as the Regent of the infant Raja and the Government of Bengal also recognised the Regency and the arrangements made to run the administration during the minority of the Raja.

In the event of the demise of the infant Raja on the reopening of the succession question, the Supreme Government was determined to exercise its discretion in acknowledging any arrangements made by the people of Manipur, because it had no desire to interfere in the internal affairs of that country unless it was absolutely essential. However, Major Grant suggested the need for definite instructions to be furnished to the British officers at Manipur as to how they should act in such an eventuality. He knew that in such a case the Jubaraja and the Senapati were likely to be the claimants to the throne. The right of the Jubaraja rested upon his near connection with the late Raja. Gambhir Singh, therefore, would have certainly adopted him as his successor in the case of the death of his son during his own life time. The late Raja had openly indicated his feelings and wishes towards this nephew.

24. P.C., 27 April, 1844, Nos.101-102; Gordon to Currie, 5 April, 1844.
25. P.C., 3 April, 1834, Nos.127-128; Grant to Robertson, 22 February, 1834.
27. Ibid.
as the successor to the throne. The claim of the Senapati, on the other hand, was a question of expediency and not of right. His efficient administration and the popularity he had enjoyed made it all the more likely that he would be the favourite of the people.28

Examining the character, ability and popularity enjoyed by the Jubaraja and the Senapati carefully, Robertson reported to the Supreme Government that it would certainly be unwise to support the claim of the former in opposition to the latter. He reported that nomination of the Senapati as the successor would, on the other hand, be objected to by the people in consideration of his near relation to the infant Raja and the fearful temptation to which he would then be exposed to remove the only obstacle to his own and immediate recognition.30 The Agent, therefore, preferred that the Supreme Government should, for the time being, remain silent and exercise its discretion in the event of the actual death of the infant Raja for he believed that nomination of the Jubaraja against the Senapati or the Senapati against the Jubaraja would certainly lead to displeasure from a considerable section of Manipur. The Supreme Government, being convinced of the arguments put forward by Robertson, abandoned the idea of supporting either of the claimants to the throne of Manipur.
However, it was evident from the above the question of Nar Singh came out prominently and, therefore, his succession in the event of the death of the infant Raja was almost a certainty.

In almost all the above transactions, the question of the Jubarakja was neglected. He was, therefore, the only sufferer by the above arrangements. Immediately after the death of Gambhir Singh, he and another nephew of the late Raja fled from the Capital and placed themselves under the protection of Grant and Pemberton, who were by that time at Tamu for the transfer of the Kabaw Valley as discussed in the previous chapter. These princes, after some time, returned to the Capital. Soon after his arrival in the Capital Jaibir Singh decided to settle in Bengal. His decision received the approval of the Government of Manipur. This was considered advisable as it was not unlikely that evil advisors might have instigated him to disturb the peace of the country. Further his presence in Manipur would be a constant source of alarm to the Regent in particular. After communicating his intention to the Maharani and the Senapati, Jaibir Singh, without any apparent cause, again changed his mind and remained at his own risk at Manipur, admitting at the same time that his stay in the country might cause disturbance and lead to the loss of many lives. However, in consequence of a message he received from the Maharani, recommending him to adhere to his first

32. Ibid.
resolution, he left the country in February 1834. On the eve of his departure from Manipur, he was allowed to carry with him his private property.

The Jubaraja who thus left Manipur arrived at Calcutta in April 1834 in a state of utter poverty. The Government of Bengal sanctioned an advance of rupees one hundred to him for his maintenance. With regard to the future prospect of the Jubaraja, the Supreme Government entertained no wish that he should return to Manipur in the face of objections from the ruling authorities there. But if the rank of this prince and the close relationship in which he stood to the late Raja were considered, it was felt that the Government of Manipur should make a small allowance to him to keep him above want. Ms. Robertson suggested that a farm of waste lands in Cachar be given to the Jubaraja in order to help him establish a colony there with the few followers attached to him, and that a small advance, in terms of money, be sanctioned to assist him. Robertson's suggestion received concurrence from the Governor-General in Council and Jaibir Singh was subsequently allowed to settle at Cachar.

33. Ibid.
34. P.C., 4 September, 1834, Nos.58-59; Grant to Jenkins, 18 July, 1834.
REVOLTS:

Being dissatisfied with the above arrangements, Towkhai Ngamba, a nephew of the late Raja, and another prince came from Cachar to contest the throne of Manipur. They were, however, defeated at Maklang, ten miles from the Capital on the Manipur-Cachar route. Similarly, Tarring Khomba, the eldest son of Labanya Chandra, a quiet and well-disposed man, was instigated by a younger and more turbulent brother; and he also tried to upset the Government of Manipur. On receipt of the above information, the Government of Manipur instituted an enquiry which led to the instant flight from the Capital of the two princes with their adherents. After eight or ten days pursuit they were found hiding with about twenty followers near the hills on the eastern side of the valley (i.e. Nongmaiching). A scuffle took place in which one of them was killed and Tarring Khomba himself was slightly wounded. After this defeat Tarring Khomba committed no more acts of aggressions. Peace was restored once again in Manipur.

Throughout the whole affair the Senapati acted with the utmost discretion. He ordered to the officers who went in pursuit of the princes not to do any personal injury, and instead of entertaining resentment

38. P.C., May 1, 1834, No.64; Grant to Jenkins, 31 March, 1834.
39. Ibid.
against Tarring Khomba he had evinced great anxiety for his recovery. A discharged Jemadar, who joined the prince, confessed and revealed the object of the conspiracy: it was to place Tarring Khomba on the guddi and from the circumstances of his being the eldest son of the late Raja’s eldest brother they expected to have been joined by a large number of the inhabitants of the State. But contrary to their expectation the conspirators were not joined by a single individual of any consequence. It was, however, suspected that some Manipuris residing in Cachar, Sylhet and Tippera accompanied Tarring Khomba in his last endeavour.

Shortly after Tarring Khomba, another attempt to the throne of Manipur was made by Jogindrajit Singh, son of Marjit Singh. The Ex-Raja, who was then living, supported the claim of his son and appealed to the Supreme Government in an Arsee. He said that when he was King of Manipur, he made his son Jogindrajit Singh Jubaraja and reigned in the country for a long time. But during the last Burmese war he lost his power. However, when he was called upon by the then Agent, Mr. David Scott, he stated that he helped the British troops in the wars at Cherapunji. Gambhir Singh’s death, therefore, led him to demand the throne for his son and permission for their return to Manipur. Supporting his father’s claim, Jogindrajit Singh also appealed to the Government of Bengal, pointing out thereby that his ancestors always held the Rajaship of Manipur.

40. Ibid., 41. Ibid., 42. Arsee of Marjit Singh, 17 February 1834; P.C., 20 March 1834, Nos. 38-40. 43. Ibid.
and referred to the services he rendered to the Honourable Company in the Jiri Jungles and on the hills during the last Burmese War. In consideration of his services he further claimed that Major Grant proceeded to Manipur to restore the country to him. But since the country was then laid waste it was placed under the management of Gambhir Singh for its cultivation and improvement. Moreover, he himself and his father were directed to assist the British troops in the war against the Khasi insurgents in 1831, which they accordingly did. After Gambhir Singh's death they claimed their right to the throne: "We are, therefore, by all means entitled to the raj of Minneepore and nobody else can have a just claim to the same." But the Supreme Government turned down their claim.

Disappointed thus at the rejection of his claim, Jogindrajit Singh took up arms against the Government of Manipur. He collected about one hundred muskets and prepared for an attack on the State. George Gordon, the Political Agent at Manipur, however, saw no probability of Jogindrajit Singh's success in any attempt he might then make against the authorities at Manipur. Nevertheless, the Political Agent, as soon as he was in receipt of the information, reported to the authorities at Fort William the expediency of preventing the individual in question from making such an attempt. Under the advice of the Government of Bengal, the Superintendent of

44. Ibid. Arree of Jogindrajit Singh, 17 February 1834.
45. P.C., 28 February 1838, Nos. 35-37.
Sylhet immediately sent a detachment of the Sylhet Light Infantry to secure the person of the prince. But information reached them that Jogindrajit Singh had forcibly effected his escape from the guard with an armed band of twenty or thirty followers and was supposed to have proceeded to Manipur. The information was given to the officers in Cachar. The Raja of Tippera was also called upon to render his service in retaking the prince and thus preventing his designs from being executed. A reward of fifty rupees had been, long since, offered for any certain intelligence about Jogindrajit Singh. Subsequently, it was intimated to the Government of Bengal that the detachment of the Sylhet Light Infantry had surprised Jogindrajit Singh, killed two of his Sirdars and a Sipahpee, besides taking four Sipahpee prisoners, fourteen muskets, a quantity of ammunition, two colours, his Savaree Dhola, a spear and three elephants. Ganesh Jemadar of the British Company, who pursued the prince, had cut down two men with his sword and was at the point of striking at Jogindrajit Singh. But the prince fired and shot him dead. Immediately, he took to his heels and ran into dense jungles, and his followers dispersed in single file; so he could not be followed. Information having been received that the prince had established himself at a village between the two

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47. Ibid.
49. Ibid.
50. Ibid.
51. Ibid.
branches of the Jiri, in the territory of Manipur, Captain Gordon sent a party of four hundred men for the purpose of apprehending him, if possible, and to follow him if he tried to escape. This force surprised the prince and put him to death on June 11, 1838 when he was trying to escape. With his death the revolt of Jogindrajit Singh came to an end.

On his return to Sylhet from Manipur, prince Tribhubanjit Singh applied to the Government of Bengal for financial help. The Government, considering the status of the prince, granted him Tucacvee loans for his establishment but soon experienced difficulties in recovering the advances made to him. The amount due from him was Rs 2,610/- and its recovery was feared to be impossible. The Supreme Government were of the opinion that little could be expected from the exertions of so neglected a person as Tribhubanjit Singh. The Court of Directors also approved the decision of the Governor-General in Council to seize the lands assigned to him if he could not repay the loan within two months. His inability to pay off the amount led him to be placed under restraint by G.R. Lyons, the Superintendent of Cachar, but considering his status as a prince, he was released.

52. Ibid. Gordon to Lyons, 28 June 1838.
53. P.C., 7 Dec. 1840, Nos. 84-85; Gordon to Maddock, 27 Nov. 1840.
55. P.C., 7 December 1840, Nos. 84-85; Gordon to Maddock, 27 Nov. 1840.
56. P.C., 7 June 1841, Nos. 59-61; Gordon to Maddock, 22 May. 1841.
suggested that a pension, however small, be given to him. About this time Tribhubanjit Singh received the news of the death of his uncle, Gambhir Singh. He, therefore, appealed to the Supreme Government for the throne of Manipur and the superintendence of Govindaji which the government refused to entertain intimating him that his claims were inadmissible.

Being dissatisfied, Tribhubanjit Singh made an attempt on Manipur, somewhat similar to that made by the late princes, Tarring Khomba and Jogindrajit Singh. The prince with his armed followers started for Manipur and reached the Cachar frontier, across the Jiri River in April 1841. Mar Singh, therefore, thought it necessary for the peace of Manipur that he should collect as many sepoys as possible and defend the State from such an incursion. Troops were, therefore, sent to intercept him. Seventy men of the Sylhet Light Infantry, under the command of Subadar Adjodya Singh, came up with the prince and his followers on April 29, 1841 in one Manipuri village, on the left bank of the Jiri River. In the exchange of fire one Havildar was killed and a sepoy wounded. Senfies were immediately posted around and went out for the prince, but Tribhubanjit Singh made his escape. The Subadar, therefore, sent one Jemadar Abdul Hussain with 23 men to Lakhimpur to follow the prince. They secured the prince's principal sirdar and two followers, but the prince himself

57. Ibid.
58. P.C., 3 July, 1840, No.49; Memorial of Tribhubanjit Singh 23 December, 1839.
60. P.C., 7 June, 1841, Nos.59-61.
and some of his followers escaped by swimming. Although he had been fortunate enough to escape, yet his force had been intercepted and dispersed. A large number of arms and ammunition were captured on the night of the 29th and morning of the 30th April 1841. The Governor-General in Council congratulated Subadar Adjodya Singh for the zeal and perseverance with which he pursued Tribhubanjit Singh and for the good leadership which he displayed in capturing a part and in dispersing the remainder of that person's followers. They also gave him reward. His Lordship in Council was also of the opinion that the principal adherents of Tribhubanjit Singh should be kept subject to punishment or at least in temporary restraint; that the inferior followers might be discharged on entering into recognizances for their future conduct, and that the coolies be dismissed unconditionally.

Tribhubanjit Singh, with his brother Ram Singh and some other princes, together with sixty men, once again, came on Manipur as far as Mongba, a small outpost in the Manipur-Cachar frontier. Although they were seen by a body of the Regent's men, they managed to escape. Information about their position having been collected, a party under the Regent himself proceeded against the invading force and surrounded them late in the evening of 14 May 1841. The prince and his

61. Ibid.
62. Ibid.
63. Ibid.
64. Ibid.
65. P.C., 28 June, 1841, Nos.128-32.
party had cut their way through the surrounding force and killed several men. Although some of his men were also killed, his brother wounded and some other deserted, Tribhubanjit Singh came on with about thirty men, crossed the valley without interruption and made a desperate attack upon the Regent's palace on the morning of 15 May 1841. The young Raja and his mother had, for safety, been residing in the Regent's palace. With the Regent's family, they were immediately removed under an escort to a distant place, a few miles from the Palace. The invading party, after having killed many men and having been joined by many Manipuris (who deserted them at day-light), took possession of a walled enclosure surrounding the Magazine of the palace and directed heavy fire on the Regent, who with a few men was defending himself to repel the invaders. Attempts had been made to dislodge the enemy from their position. But the prince with his brother and a few men shut themselves in the Magazine. About 10 O'clock in the morning the door was burst open. Ram Singh, the prince's brother, was found dead and Tribhubanjit Singh himself having been seized was murdered while he was being brought to the Regent. With the execution of their leader, the invading army was immediately reduced to submission. During the whole encounter the Political Agent, who was not involved in the affairs, thought it better to remain

66. Ibid.
67. Ibid.
68. Ibid.
passive keeping the Residency on guard. Of the attacking party several prisoners were taken and penalties were awarded to twelve of the adherents of the late prince. 

On May 16, 1841, a party under a prince named Karaba made an abortive attempt to dislodge Chandrakirti Singh from the throne of Manipur. A similar attempt was made in September from Cachar by three Manipuri princes, Parbitar Singh, Narendrajit Singh and Milambar Singh. The British authorities in Manipur and Cachar decided to put these princes under strict military guard and send them away from Cachar, if possible, to check probable future disturbances. The decision received concurrence from the Supreme Government. The princes were accordingly transferred to Dacca, where they were kept under confinement. After enduring prolonged hardship the princes prayed for their release. They desired to settle permanently either in Dacca or in Comillah. On the recommendation of Mr. E. Gordon, the Commissioner of Dacca the Governor-General in Council acceded to their request and subsequently the princes were released.

69. Ibid.
71. P.C., 28 June 1841, Nos.128-132.
73. Ibid.
74. P.C., 5 April 1842, Nos.96-97.
75. Ibid.
76. Ibid.
77. Ibid.
78. Ibid.
QUESTION OF PITAMBAR SINGH:

Mention may be made in this connection that Pitambar Singh since his defeat in the hands of Gambhir Singh, in 1823, settled at Ava and was vested with the command of the Cassay (Manipur) Horse by the Burmese Government. When the news of the death of Gambhir Singh reached him, he appealed to Major Burney, the Resident at Ava, for permission to return to Manipur complaining that the town which the King of Burma gave to him as a Jagir, could not maintain his family. The Resident, therefore, reported the desire of the Manipuri Prince to the Governor-General in Council adding his observations to the effect that if the prince be permitted to go back, the Burmese would feel offended, because a large number of the Manipuris who by that time had become the loyal subjects of Burma would be likely to follow him. His return to Manipur, most probably, would also give great dissatisfaction to the Regent and to the followers of the infant Raja. But Pitambar Singh assured Major Burney that he had received invitation from the Regent himself asking him to return to Manipur. He appealed that the Burmese Government could not object to his return, because of the fact that he came to Burma voluntarily, and that he would not disturb peace in the country.

79. P.C., 19 December 1833, Nos.85-93; Robertson to Macnaghten, 5 October 1833.
80. P.C., 28 March 1836, Nos.50-52; Burney to Macnaghten, 3 February 1836.
81. Ibid.
Burney, therefore, suspected that some leading men in Manipur were dissatisfied with the conduct of affairs there and had invited Pitambar Singh in the hope that with his help and influence they could effect a revolution in the Government of Manipur.

The Supreme Government referred the matter to the Political Agent at Manipur and the latter objected to the return of Pitambar Singh. The prince's assertion that he was invited by the Regent was denied by the Regent himself. Further it was informed that Pitambar Singh, the most determined enemy of Gambhir Singh, had been taking active part against the British and Manipur Governments. His Lordship in Council, therefore, could not approve of the return of Pitambar Singh to Manipur.

The Court of Ava too was not agreeable to the return of the prince unless the Government of Bengal insisted upon it. But the King later changed his opinion. He held the view that Pitambar Singh was the rightful successor to the throne of Manipur. Being alarmed the Supreme Government had to take necessary measures for defending Manipur should the King of Burma encouraged the return of Pitambar Singh. On the recommendation of the Political Agent five companies of the Sylhet Light

82. P.C., 13 June 1836, Nos.11-12; Gordon to Macnaghten, 15 May, 1836.
83. P.C., 18 July 1836, Nos.53, 114; Burney to Macnaghten, 24 May, 1836.
Infantry were immediately stationed at Lakhimpur to meet any emergency in that quarter. The threat from Burma was thus averted and the long drawn dangers within and outside the State were checked by the timely intervention of the Government of Bengal.