

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE 35TH SESSION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN HELD ON THE 25TH DAY OF 8 MONTH
OF IRON PIG YEAR CORRESPONDING TO 27.10.1971.**

1. MATTER RELATING TO VALUABLE MATERIALS IN LHAKHANG/MONASTERIES

As per resolution No. 27 of the 34th session of the National Assembly, it was resolved that the Royal Advisory Councillors, Cabinet Ministers and the Central Monk Body should formulate a procedure for preservation of the valuable antiques of Monasteries and Lhakhangs. It was decided that until such time as a new National Library building was constructed the responsibility for preservation of such items would rest with the owners of the monasteries/Lhakhangs. It was further resolved that members of the public in possession of similar valuable antiques would not be permitted to export them. However, they could be sold in the country. Presentation of such items was also forbidden.

2. MATTER RELATING TO IMPORT OF LABOUR IN SOUTHERN BHUTAN

In accordance with resolution No. 32 of the 34th session of the National Assembly, a ban was imposed on the import of labourers. However, in view of the revenue earned from timber and the acute shortage of labour in extracting it, the house decided that in the case of the towns of Sarbhang, Phuntsholing, Chengmari, Sibsoo, Samchi, Kalikhola, Gaylegphug, Daifam and Samdrup-jongkhar imported labour would be permitted on obtaining an annually renewable permit from Lhotsham Chichap.

3. MATTER RELATING TO RENOVATION OF DAGA TAK CHEN IRRIGATION CHANNEL

In view of the request of the public of Tak Chen Village of Daga Dzong for government assistance in the renovation of Tak Chen irrigation channel, the Assembly resolved that the Government would provide them with tools and masons if the proposed scheme was found to be feasible after investigation by the Ministry of Development. As for the labour, it was to be provided by the public on a voluntary basis.

4. MATTER RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW IRRIGATION CHANNELS

The house learnt that there were several requests from the public for assistance in constructing new irrigation channels. It was also observed that the various government assisted irrigation schemes were not being implemented properly owing to the negligence of the public. Therefore, the Assembly decided that governmental assistance would be extended only after the submission of an agreement by the beneficiaries relating to the timely supply of labour.

5. MATTER RELATING TO LANGTHEL SUSPENSION BRIDGES

The public of Langthel requested that top priority be accorded to the construction of a new suspension bridge at Langthel which was already included in the plan. In this regard, it was decided that construction of such bridges would be carried out as per the priority list approved by the Assembly in accordance with the plan.

6. MATTER RELATING TO TAX ON ORANGE TREES

According to resolution passed in the 34th session of the National Assembly, a tax was to be levied on orange trees in all the regions of the country on a par with that being imposed in southern Bhutan. However, the resolution had not specified as to from when the tax was to be levied. The Assembly therefore decided that the said tax would be levied as soon as the orange trees bore fruit.

7. MATTER RELATING TO LHADHAR POLES FOR TONGSA DZONG

It was reported that the Lhadhar poles for Tongsa were being supplied by the public of Chumay upto the place bordering Mangde. However, as per tradition, the poles should have been provided by the public of Mangde. As such, the Assembly decided that henceforth the flag poles for Tongsa Dzong should be made available by the public of Mangde.

8. MATTER RELATING TO RETURN OF ABSCONDERS

The Home Minister informed the Assembly regarding the arrival of Makshi Tongbi Ugen, La Tshering S.D.O. Phuntsholing and Nado Rinchen, Ranger of Sarbhang who absconded on being involved in rebellion and now wished to return to Bhutan.

Meanwhile, while reporting to the Assembly of the above three absconders, the members pointed out that such persons would not be allowed to return to the country as per National Law. However, they have submitted a joint petition to His Majesty regretting their misdeeds

and sought Royal pardon. His Majesty was pleased to grant them royal pardon and permit them to return to the country. The Assembly endorsed the decision.

9. MATTER RELATING TO NON-NATIONAL LABOURERS

As per resolution No.32 of the 34th session of the National Assembly, the government and private organizations other than the Public Works Department and DANTAK were restricted from importing labourers from outside the country. While supporting the continuance of this restriction, the Assembly decided that the requirement of labour for the Finance Ministry should be met from the labourers employed by the Public Works Department. Besides this, the Ministry of Trade & Industries would be permitted to import foreign skilled labourers only for imparting training to nationals, so as to enable the latter to meet the country's future requirements. The concerned Ministry would take responsibility for the imported labour.

10. MATTER RELATING TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR NON-NATIONAL LABOURERS IN BHUTAN

In accordance with resolution No.9 of this session, it was decided that non-national labourers working in Bhutan would not be permitted use of any land for the purpose of making vegetable gardens or rearing domestic animals. In order to overcome this problem, the House decided that the labourers should be transferred every year.

11. MATTER RELATING TO REVISION OF TAX ON ORANGES TREES

In order to generate government revenue, the rate of tax on orange trees in some places at lower altitude like Sibsoo, Chengmari, Samchi, Phuntsholing, Kalikhola, Sarbhang, Gaylegphug, Samdrupjongkhar and Daifam, where the cash crops fetched a comparatively higher price, would henceforth be revised and fixed at Nu.1.50 per tree with effect from 1972. At other places, the rate would be Nu.1/- per tree.

12. MATTER RELATING TO REVISION OF TAX ON MILLS

The House decided to revise and fix the tax on Rice huller machines at Nu. 150/- and that on water mills at Nu. 75/- per annum. Tax would be levied on stone flour grinders at the rate of Nu. 30/- for the whole year and Nu. 20/- for the summer season.

13. MATTER RELATING TO EXPORT TAX ON CATTLE

The Assembly noted that tax on cattle was being realized from the public of Dagana at the rate of Nu. 5/- per cattle exported to other districts. As such, the House decided that the export tax on cattle in other Dzongkhags would also be imposed at the rate of Nu. 5/- per cattle.

14. MATTER RELATING TO SCHOOL FOR RBA CHILDREN

It was again brought to the notice of the House, that the children of the border security force were facing great problems regarding their education. As such a request was lodged for the provision of educational facilities like in Tenchholing and Lungtenphu. The House decided that the children of the border security forces should be admitted to nearby central schools with boarding facilities as per Resolution No. 15 of the 32nd session of the Assembly.

15. MATTER RELATING TO TECHNICAL SCHOOL TEACHERS

It was reported that owing to the various developmental activities taking place in the country, the need of technical manpower was increasing every year which was not available within the country. The House decided that the requirement of such person should be met from the imported manpower employed in the Ministry of Development, if such person cannot be made available from the Ministry imported labourers, the technical personnel required for the private parties would be permitted to import through the Home Ministry, on submission of an agreement they would be imported only to impart training to Nationals on a contract basis, until such time as the nationals were themselves able to take over such assignments.

16. MATTER RELATING TO STIPEND FOR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

In pursuance of Resolution 15 above, the Royal Government introduced a training programme for persons interested in masonry, carpentry, electricity and other technical works. The persons undergoing the training would be paid stipends. The interested persons would be required to contact the Development Ministry for enrollment.

17. MATTER RELATING TO ADMISSION OF BHUTAN TO UNO

It was informed in the Assembly that, the kingdom of Bhutan was admitted as the 128th member of the United Nations Organization on the forenoon of the 3rd day of the 8th month of the Iron Pig Year. Bhutan's inclusion in the world community of nations was made

possible by its own initiative backed by the goodwill and kind assistance extended by the Government of India.

18. MATTER RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES

It was made known that, despite Bhutan's membership of the UNO, it would not be possible for it to establish Bhutan's Embassy in other countries. This was because, the country was in its initial stage of development and the required manpower was not available. The House was also informed that as such, Foreign Embassy too would not be accepted in the country for the time being.

19. MATTER RELATING TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

As regards the assistance from other countries for the development of Bhutan, the Assembly observed that it was not necessary to obtain foreign aid from other countries in view of the major assistance being extended by India and would continue it in future also. However, if necessary financial aid over 10 lakhs was to be sought from elsewhere, the matter should be looked into jointly by His Majesty the King, the Hon'ble Cabinet Ministers and the Royal Advisory Councillors and reported to the next Assembly session for further necessary action.

20. MATTER RELATING TO RULES AND REGULATIONS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Regarding the proposal to draft a separate provision dealing with the violation of the Rules and Regulations of the National Assembly, the House was informed that this was not necessary as there already existed the national laws which could be applied against members violating the Rules and Regulations of the country. The Assembly therefore resolved accordingly.

21. MATTER RELATING TO AMENDMENT OF ASSEMBLY RULE

As per Article No. 16 of the Rules and Regulations of the National Assembly, the decisions of the Assembly were to be circulated only as permitted by the House. Other decisions of the Assembly were not allowed to be leaked out of the Assembly Hall. An amendment was made in this regard to the effect that only matters considered strictly confidential would be restricted from being spread outside the Assembly Hall.

22. MATTER RELATING TO OATH OF SPEAKER

The draft document comprising 12 articles outlining the functions of the Speaker was verified and approved by the Assembly. Violation of the above rules by the Speaker would be punishable according to the law of the country.

23. MATTER RELATING TO NATIONALITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

The House decided to revise the existing Citizenship Act. The Cabinet, the Royal Advisory Council, High Court and Representatives from the Army would together work out the necessary amendments and submit the same to the forthcoming session.

24. MATTER RELATING TO RESTRICTION ON SLAUGHTER OF LIVESTOCK

The House was informed of the previous session's decision to permit sale of meat in the market. However, the Central Monk Body again put forth a petition stating that thousands of bulls, fowls, goats and sheep were being killed for their meat every day. This, the petition further stated, was against the religion of the country. As such, the House decided to restrict the slaughter of livestock. However, only people who had no alternative would be permitted to slaughter animals for exchange with other commodities. Under no circumstances would the sale of meat be permitted commercially. It was also decided that quality of meat required by the Royal Families and Army personnel would be ascertained by the Home Ministry and brought from Phuntsholing. The supply of meat through government vehicles would henceforth be prohibited.

25. MATTER RELATING TO ASSEMBLY DECISIONS

The House decided that the concerned government departments should incorporate the decisions passed by the Assembly in their respective plan policies and adhere to them strictly.

26. MATTER RELATING TO RBA RECRUITMENT

In pursuance of Resolution No. 18 of the 33rd session of the National Assembly requiring the recruitment of 500 to 600 army personnel every year, it was decided that the Home Ministry in consultation with the Army would fix the number of persons to be recruited from different districts in the country.

27. MATTER RELATING TO RETURN OF UNFIT RECRUITS

It was observed that some of the person declared unfit in the Army on medical grounds were loitering and not going back to their home towns. This was hampering Shaptolayme in the villages. Therefore, it was decided that the Army authorities should hand over such persons to the Ministry of Home Affairs in order to ensure that they returned home in time.

28. MATTER RELATING TO FLAG ON VEHICLES

The House decided that a set of rules and regulations governing the entitlement of flags on vehicles of the government officials should be framed jointly by the Cabinet and Royal Advisory Council, and submitted to the forthcoming session of the Assembly.

29. MATTER RELATING TO ELECTION OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE TO HIGH COURT

As Dasho Sedo, Public Representative in the High Court was retiring on superannuation after completion of his term, a new public representative was to be elected in his place. Therefore, three candidates were nominated by the public for-election by the Assembly. On votes being cast, Mr. Dawa from Tashigang polled 56 votes, Ramjam Ngawang from Kurtey 50 votes and Tshewang Chepche from Bumthang 35 votes. Mr. Dawa, having secured the majority of votes, was declared elected as Public Representative to the High Court. However, it was decided that he should work as Ramjam for a period of 3 months. On successfully completing the probation period, he would be promoted to the post of Thrimpon. If he was found to be incapable to hold the post, a new candidates would be elected.

30. MATTER RELATING TO EXTENSION OF COUNCILLOR'S TERM

On the ground that the Councillors could not make the best use of their experience in the interests of the government and the public during their short terms in office, it was decided to extend their term from 3 to 5 years. However, should they be found to be unsatisfactory in the discharge of their duties, new elections would be called before the completion of their term.

31. MATTER RELATING TO THENCHA

It was pointed out that resolution No. 18 of the 34th session of the Assembly made no mention of the entitlements (Thencha) to be extended to the retired government officials. Therefore, the matter was put to the vote. In the voting, 119 were in favour of the entitlements being enforced and 24 against it. As such, it was resolved that retired lamas,

Hon'ble Ministers and Red Scarf Officers would be entitled to Thencha as per the above resolution. The Ex-Army officials above the rank of full lieutenants would be entitled to one orderly as Thencha. The Resolution would be brought into effect from the 34th session of the Assembly held during the third month of Iron Pig Year.

32. MINISTER RELATING TO TAX ON GAMBLING

With a view to generating more revenue, it was decided to levy taxes on certain sources of income. As such, gambling being a great source of income, the house decided that some tax be levied on it. The cabinet would fix the tax rates and present it in the forthcoming Assembly session.

33. MATTER RELATING TO NATIONAL LANGUAGE

It was brought to the notice of the House that Bhutan was an independent country having its own national language. However, it was observed that owing to our people mingling with foreigners working in the country, the language was becoming adulterated. Hence, the House decided that excepting technical words, the use of foreign language in the country would be restricted. Meanwhile it was decided that Dzongkha should be used by one and all.

.....