

**DECISIONS PASSED BY THE 47TH SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
BHUTAN**

1. **MATTER RELATING TO HOUSEHOLD TAX AND INSURANCE FUND FOR
VILLAGERS**

In some parts of the country two or more families were living in one house. At present each family had to pay household tax separately. However, house insurance fund was collected on the basis of individual houses and not individual families. It was requested in the National Assembly that household tax should be levied on the number of houses based on class of house. Likewise the house insurance fund should also be collected on the basis of individual houses and not individual families. The government conceded to this request. As such, it was decided that the house insurance fund and household tax would be collected on the basis of individual houses with effect from January 1, 1978. This rule would not apply to other taxes and duties except for households.

2. **MATTER RELATING TO TREES REGISTERED LAND**

With reference to the request made by some members that permission to be granted for felling trees in one's registered land, the government felt that such cutting of trees would lead to a steep decline in the nation's natural resources. Besides, as before, the government had to consider the problems of the poor families. It was therefore decided that the rules and regulations drawn up by the Forest Department should be followed.

3. **MATTER RELATING TO CASH CROP GROWERS**

It was decided that if cash crop growers were able to get better prices from private traders than what was offered by the Food Corporation of Bhutan, they would be permitted to sell their produce to the private parties without hindrance.

4. **MATTER RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISPENSARY AT NIMTOLA**

The establishment of a dispensary at Nimtola under Dagapela sub-division was found to be necessary. However, since it was not included in the Fourth Five Year Plan, it was decided that the project would be considered for inclusion in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

5. **MATTER RELATING TO MOTORABLE ROAD FROM SAMCHI TO DOROKHA**

With reference to the construction of a motorable road from Samchi to Dorokha, it was decided that since the project had not been included in the Fourth Plan, work on it could not be taken up at present. While noting the doubts raised on whether the road would be maintained properly once completed, the Assembly decided to review the question of the possible inclusion of the road constructing in the Fifth Plan.

6. MATTER RELATING TO BAN ON GAMBLING

Resolution 3 of the 43rd session of the National Assembly permitted gambling. However, in view of the strong reservations of the people of Southern Bhutan on the issue, it was decided that gambling in towns, districts and villages of the country would be completely banned with effect from January 1, 1978.

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