

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE 20TH SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN HELD AT PARO ON 10TH DAY OF 7TH MONTH OF THE
WOOD DRAGON YEAR CORRESPONDING TO 17TH SEPTEMBER, 1964**

1. MATTER RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION CHARGES.

Carriage charges were fixed at Nu.3/- per day if the articles belonged to the Government other than the Army/Developmental works. The number of days taken for the same would be accounted in the Dudom on the production of a certificate from the concerned Thrimpon. In case of articles belonging to the Royal Bhutan Army and the Development wing, it was decided to pay a sum of Nu. 5/- per day. However, the days taken for the same would not be accounted in the Dudom register. The upper weight limit to be carried by an individual was fixed at a maund i.e 40 kgs, and no one was permitted to compel an individual to carry more. The responsibility for recruiting the personnel for the transportation of these articles was entrusted to the concerned Thrimpon, who would make his choice in consultation with the respective Gups and Chipons.

2. MATTER RELATING TO THE INTRODUCTION OF TAXES BY CASH

In support of the proposal submitted by the Ministry of Finance and the Thrimpon, Thimphu, the members from Chapcha, Shemgang, Mongar and Dungsam requested the Assembly to introduce the payment of taxes by cash. It was accordingly decided to introduce the same, which was reported to His Majesty also.

3. MATTER RELATING TO ROYAL BHUTAN POLICE

The Security personnel required in the Dzongkhags would be selected by the Thrimpons from the villagers trained in handling arms. The police personnel were empowered to impose penalties on those engaged in illegal and unlawful acts under the instruction of the Thrimpon. However, the ranks to be conferred to the police personnel and their ration entitlements would be given by the Army Headquarters.

4. MATTER RELATING TO THE VIOLATION OF LAWS BY ARMY PERSONNEL

As and when the Army personnel other than the police were found to be violating the laws of the country while visiting Dzongs and Villagers, they were to be reported to the Army head

office by the Thrimpons with the details of the nature of their crime. On receipt of the same, the culprits would be punished by their authorities.

5. MATTER RELATING TO THE PRICE OF POTATOES

In the previous session of the Assembly it was decided to fix the price of potatoes at ch. 25 per kg for the Army, but it was subsequently decided to permit the growers to sell their potatoes at the prevailing market rate. However, the Army was required to buy their requirement of potatoes during the season itself. The growers were free to sell the remainder in the open market.

6. MATTER RELATING TO FIRE HAZARDS

In the previous sessions, it was decided that anyone found responsible for making a fire beyond 60 yds. of Tseri land would be liable to imprisonment for a period of one month. However, the public representatives of Eastern Bhutan, Daga and Gyeltangpa petitioned the Government to extend this limit. Therefore it was decided that making of fire would be permitted to the extent of 120 yds of Tseri land would be liable to one month's imprisonment. Further, it was decided that anyone found to have burnt upto 240 yds of forests would be imprisoned for two months, and that if the area burnt was more than 240 yds the culprit would be imprisoned for a period of three months.

7. MATTER RELATING TO TRADE ROUTE

The traders while going to Tawang were stated to have been stopped by the border security force. Henceforth it was decided that the persons travelling from Tashigang to Tawang for trading should obtain route permits from the Thrimpon, Tashigang, and on production of such a document, the border security guards would permit them to proceed without hindrance. However, the traders should come back after ten days from the date of crossing the border. Similarly the traders coming from Tawang to Tashigang would also have to abide by this arrangement.

8. MATTER RELATING TO MAINTENANCE OF DISCIPLINE IN DZONG

The clothing to be worn by women during visits to Dzong and on other important occasions such as functions and religious performances was discussed at length. It was decided that

Bhutanese women should wear the national dress without fail and should not resort to wearing foreign dresses. Also, excepting Jhomo and Naeljorma, all other women were forbidden from keeping long hair.

9. PROPER UNIFORM TO BE WORN BY ARMY PERSONNEL.

Army personnel were required to wear either their official uniform or Gho with nyare while visiting the Dzong. Those found violating the above would be punishable as per the law.

10. NATIONAL DRESS IN DZONG AREA.

Bhutanese people, while accompanying foreigners to the Dzong area as Interpreters or otherwise were required to wear the national dress. They would not be allowed to wear other dresses.

11. MATTER RELATING TO CHUNIDOM

As explained by the members, His Majesty was pleased to command that, to facilitate sowing, instead of Dudom, Chunidom would be introduced for two months during the 5th and 6th month of every year.

12. MATTER RELATING TO THE EXEMPTION OF DUDOM

The herdsmen and mill operator for the monk bodies would be exempted from Dudom in the following manner. However, only those herdsmen who were with the livestock would be exempted from Dudom, and the exemption would not be extended to anybody else.

<u>Sl.No</u>	<u>Name of</u>	<u>Unit of</u>	<u>Unit of</u>	<u>No.of</u>	<u>No. of</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Monk</u>	<u>livestock</u>
	livestock	<u>Mill</u>	person					
	<u>Bodies</u>	farm	farm		exempt-			
		located	located		from			
		at High	at lower		Dudom			
		er alti-	<u>altitude</u>		for the			
		<u>tude</u>			<u>Purpose</u>			

1. Central

	Monk Body	-	4	-	4 person each	
2.	Central					
	Monk Body	6	-	-	3 each	
3.	-	-	-	1	1 for summer	six
	months					
4.	-	-	-	5	1 each for winter six months.	
5.	District					
	Monk body					
	Wangdi					
	phodrang	-	2	-	4 each unit.	
6.	-	1	-	-	3 herds in	
	each unit					
7.	District					
	Monk Body	-	4	-	4 herds in	
	each unit					
8.	Tongsa					
	Rabdey	2	-	-	3 herds in	
	each unit					
9.	Paro Monk					
	Body	-	2	-	4 herds in	
	each unit					
10.	Paro Monk					
	Body	3	-	-	3 herds in	
	each unit					
11.	Lhuntshi					
	Monk	-	1	-	4 herds in	
	each unit					
12.	-	1	-	-	2 herds in	
	each unit					
13.	Daga Monk					
	Body	-	1	-	4 herds in	
	each unit					
14.	-	1	-	-	3 herds in	
	each unit					
15.	Tashigang					

	Monk Body	-	2	-	4 herds in	
	each unit					
16.	Paro Rabdey	-	-	3	3 for summer	six
	months					
17.	-	1	-	-	3 herds in	
	each unit					

13. MATTER RELATING TO WOOL

The people of Bumthang were required to supply wool to the store officer of Bumthang in excess of his legitimate needs. As such, the store officer greatly benefited from the wool. Therefore, the people of Bumthang requested the Assembly to exempt them from supplying wool to the store officer. The house resolved that the Ministry of Finance would investigate the matter.

14. MATTER RELATING TO THE ACCOUNTING OF JOURNEY PERIOD

The number of days taken by the Western people to travel for their home town to Palela and beyond in Eastern Bhutan would be subtracted from the number of days of the Dudom. However, they would not be paid wages for this period. Similarly, Eastern people travelling to Western Bhutan for Dudom would be treated in the same manner.

15. MATTER RELATING TO THE LABOURERS FOR THIMPHU DZONG

The 'Dudom' for the people of Bumthang and Tongsa for the current year would be called to Thimphu.

16. MATTER RELATING TO THE REGULARISATION OF ABSENCE FROM THE LABOURS FORCE

In the previous session of the National Assembly, it was decided that the labourers who absented themselves from Dudom would be made to work an extra day for every two days of absence. Wages would only be paid for the actual working days and not for extra days. However, it was pointed out that during the construction of Lungtenzampa High School, absentees, instead of having to work for extra days, would be fined a sum of Nu. 1/- per day

from their wages, and the same would be handed over to the Ministry of Finance. Henceforth, all such cases would be dealt with as above.

17. MATTER RELATING TO TIBETAN REFUGEES

- a) Henceforth all Tibetan refugees in Bhutan would be apportioned among different districts and made to reside along with the Bhutanese.
- b) Every Tibetans should shorten their hair and should adopt Bhutanese dress, in accordance with Bhutanese customs and tradition.
- c) Tibetan children being sent to India for studies should be sent through the Department of Education as in the case of Bhutanese children. Otherwise, they should be enrolled in the Bhutanese schools in their respective districts, as other Bhutanese children.
- d) The aid from India for the support of the Tibetan refugees in Bhutan should be distributed by the two Rehabilitation Officers, as they had been doing earlier. However, they shall not be authorized to issue any other directives to the Tibetans without the approval of the district authorities.

In this regard, the two Tibetan Rehabilitation officials (Tshering & Colleagues) having agreed to abide by the above four terms and conditions for the Tibetans settling in Bhutan, had submitted a written representation to the Assembly. Therefore, the Assembly resolved that the two Tibetan officials should prepare separate lists of refugees willing and un-willing to abide by the above conditions, and submit those to the concerned Thrimpons. It was further resolved that on receipt of the lists, the concerned Thrimpons were to arrange to send to India with their belongings those not willing to abide by the above terms and conditions. Those willing to abide the above terms would remain in Bhutan.

18. MATTER RELATING TO ADMISSION OF NEW MONKS

The Representative of the Tashigang monk body reported that the inadequate number of monks in Tashigang Dzong made it difficult even to conduct the annual Tsechu in Tashigang. As such, His Majesty the King was pleased to increase the strength of monks at Tashigang to fifty.

19. MATTER RELATING TO PURCHASE OF FOODGRAINS

Even though the Tashigang monks received monthly stipends they were facing difficulties in obtaining rations as no one was willing to sell them maize, rice, flour etc. His Majesty was therefore pleased to command that the balance of grains left with the store officer (Nyerchen) would now be sold to the monks.

20. MATTER RELATING TO THE FIELD CROPS

The people of Goen Shari of Gasa Dzong used to pay 821 des of paddy to Gasa Dzong yearly as they had been cultivating the land owned by Gasa Dzong. Since the land in question was washed away by floods, His Majesty the King was pleased to exempt them from paying the above quantity of paddy forthwith.

21. MATTER RELATING TO THE SUPPLY OF PLANKS

The people of Goen Shari were required to supply 20 planks to the store officer of Punakha Dzong yearly. As the planks supplied were found to have remained unutilized for the Dzong, His Majesty was pleased to free the people of Goen Shari from the obligation of supplying the above planks.

22. MATTER RELATING TO THE TRADITIONAL PAPER ARTISANS

Uptil now the 5 Artisans each in Thimphu and Dudom engaged in making traditional papers in Thimphu and Bumthang were exempted from Dudom and in addition, they were provided rations by the public. Henceforth, it was decided to appoint only 3 Artisans each in the two above places who would be provided rations only during the time of making paper for the Government. However, as in the case of carpenters, they would be exempted from Dudom.

23. MATTER RELATING TO THE COST OF BUTTER

It was observed that the people of Tshochens under Thimphu Dzong had been paying Nu. 3/- in lieu of one sang of butter tax, whereas the people of Mongar, Punakha and Wangdiphodrang were understood to have been paying only Nu. 2/- per sang. To introduce

uniformity of taxation per sang of butter, it was decided that the price per sang would be Nu. 2/-.

24. MATTER RELATING TO REDUCTION OF TAXES

Some of the lands owned by the people of Barpa block at Punakha had fallen in the area where a new irrigation channel of Phochu river was being constructed. It was pointed out in the Assembly that it had resolved in an earlier session to exempt the said lands from taxation. However, due to some disputes, the matter was kept in abeyance. All Assembly members unanimously agreed that the respective Thrimpons, Nyerchens and the Ministry of Finance were to conduct the Survey of the Lands and reduce the taxes accordingly in consultation with the respective Gups and Chipons.

25. MATTER RELATING TO THE COST OF HOUSES

Out of the lands at Mewang and Beme, the lands beyond Beme ROUNGCHU was transferred to the district of Paro along with 13 houses. The members of the National Assembly felt that compensation should be given to the concerned house owners. It was resolved that the Thrimpons of Paro and Thimphu would jointly consult the occupants of these houses and pay compensation accordingly.

26. MATTER RELATING TO FOOD COMMODITIES

The rates for the food commodities were amended as follows :

1. Nu. 1/- for five nos of eggs
2. Nu. 7/- for big chicken
3. Nu. 6/- for small chicken

27. MATTER RELATING TO THE ENTITLEMENT FOR THE CHIPONS

The chipons of Paro districts were found to have been entitled to only 3 labourers exempted from Dudom, whereas 4 labourers were entitled to chipons in other districts. Henceforth, it was resolved that the chipons of Paro district would also be entitled to 4 labourers exempted from Dudom.

28. MATTER RELATING TO THE EXEMPTION OF TSHOCHAY

Because of cracked, uncultivable patches, the government land under Zomling block of Punakha Chesithang was causing a loss of 2,180 des of grains to the public. As such the 'Tshoche' for 2,180 pathis was being exempted.

29. MATTER RELATING TO THE MEMORIAL OF THE LATE PRIME MINISTER

In respectful memory of the Late Prime Minister, it was resolved to construct a monastery, a stupa, or a hospital. As such, the Government officials and the public were called upon to donate voluntarily for these constructions. The donations could be of any amount, and were to be sent to the specified place on or before the 9th month of the Wood Dragon Year. The memorial to the Late Prime Minister would be constructed at the cremation site beginning from the 1st month of the coming year Dawa Dangpa. Volunteers were welcome to help in the construction. However, the nature of the memorial would be decided by the relatives of the Late Prime Minister.

30. MATTER RELATING TO THE MEASUREMENT OF WEIGHING MACHINE

The Ministry of Finance had devised standardized weights of 'Des and Sang' in relation to kilograms. To avoid future complications, all Dzongkhags were henceforth to abide by the above weights, which were to carry the seal of the Ministry of Finance.