

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE 27TH SESSION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN**

1. **MATTER RELATING TO CGI SHEETS FOR RINPUNG DZONG**

It was reported in the Assembly that the Rinpung Dzong in Paro, being one of the most important Dzongs, should be re-roofed with CGI sheets, replacing shingles. In this connection, the house decided that a sum of Nu.1 lakh should be allocated from the budget head of Repairs/Maintenance of Dzongs and Monasteries during the 2nd fifth Five Year Plan. As this amount was considered insufficient, it was decided that an additional Nu.1 lakh should be collected from the public under Rinpung Dzong, and that this sum should be remitted to the Ministry of Finance which would supply the CGI sheets.

2. **MATTER RELATING TO EXEMPTION FROM TIMBER ROYALTY**

As per the rules of the Forests Department, people were to pay royalty on timber required for construction/renovation of their houses. In view of the difficulties being faced by the public due to the payment of royalty, some of the chimis from Western Bhutan requested that the public be exempted from the same. During the deliberation on the issue, it was decided that the people would be exempted from the payment of royalty only for construction of houses either gutted by fire or washed away by landslides/floods or destroyed by any other natural calamity.

For any purpose other than this, the royalty would be payable at the rate of Nu. 2/- per tree, Nu. 0.25 per cham and Nu. 0.06 per damchung. In the meantime, it was stated that royalty on timber for commercial purposes would be levied as per the existing rules and regulations of the Forest Department. As regards the rates in Southern Bhutan, they would remain as before.

3. **MATTER RELATING TO TAX ON RICE HULLER MACHINE AND WATERMILL**

The house decided that the taxes on rice flour huller machine be fixed at Nu. 120/- per annum in view of the fact that their output was considerably higher than that of the watermill. The annual tax on the watermill had therefore been fixed at Nu. 20/-.

4. MATTER RELATING TO TAX ON SEWING MACHINE

The house was informed that no tax was being levied on sewing machines. In view of the interest expressed by some people in taking up tailoring commercially, it was decided to levy a sum of Nu. 50/- on machines being used for business. At the same time, a sum of Nu. 10/- would be levied on sewing machines kept for domestic use.

5. MATTER RELATING TO ALIGNMENT OF ROAD

The house was informed that the Gaylegphug-Shemgang road was to be extended upto Bumthang via Tongsa, for which 200 labourers were required for survey and trace cutting works. It was decided that 60 labourers would be supplied from Shemgang, 80 labourers from Tongsa, and 60 from Bumthang upto Yothula. From there 60 labourers each would be supplied by Shemgang and Tongsa, and 80 labourers from Bumthang till the completion of survey and tracing works. They would be paid wages at the rate of Nu. 5/- per day.

6. MATTER RELATING TO EXEMPTION OF CHUNIDOM TO GUP'S CLERK

It was brought to the notice of the House that as the Gups were required to collect large amounts from the public by way of governmental revenue, it was necessary to engage a clerk for the purpose. In view of this, the House was requested that 4 persons per clerk, including himself, be exempted from chunidom. The house accordingly decided that they be exempted from the 1st month of the Earth Monkey Year.

7. MATTER RELATING TO THE SALARY OF GUPS

Some of the public representatives reported that the Gups, besides being responsible for collection of taxes, were also entrusted with various assignments by the government. Therefore, in view of their workload, the house decided that the Gups be given salaries in three different categories on the basis of the total revenue collected and the number of houses covered by them. However, the Gups of Southern Bhutan were to receive their salaries as before.

8. MATTER RELATING TO FOOD COMMODITIES FOR DZONGS

As the taxes from the public were being collected in cash, and not in kind as earlier, the Dzong Nyerchens were facing problems in procuring food commodities. Therefore, the house decided that the Gups/Chimis should make the necessary arrangements for the Nyerchens to purchase the same from the public in cash.

9. MATTER RELATING TO WEIGHING MACHINES

Concerned traders were directed to henceforth use only the weighing materials, such as kgs and des, issued by the Ministry of Finance. However, all commodities could be sold at the market rate.