

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE 32ND SESSION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN HELD FROM 5TH MAY 1970 CORRESPONDING
TO 30TH DAY OF 3RD MONTH OF IRON DOG YEAR**

1. MATTER RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VILLAGES

Large areas of dry land in the country needed to be irrigated with 26 new irrigation channels for conversion into wet land. Additionally, the old irrigation channels needed to be renovated during the 3rd five year plan. Consequently, it was decided to grant a sum of Nu. 1 crore as assistance for the above purposes. The construction work on the irrigation channels would be supervised by the Hon'ble Home Minister. However, the fixation of wages for the construction of irrigation channels would be discussed in the next session, i.e. 33rd session.

2. MATTER RELATING TO DEPUTATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INDIA FOR DRAWING AIDS IN CASH FOR 3RD FIVE YEAR PLAN

The estimate of expenditures for the 3rd fifth year plan had already been submitted to the Government of India. Therefore, the Assembly decided to depute the following representatives with the Development Minister to India to draw the aid in cash.

- i. Mr. Pema Wangchuk, Southern Commissioner as Government Representative.
- ii. Mr. Sonam Rabgey, Representative of Royal Advisory Council.
- iii. Mr. Passang Dorji, National Assembly Member.

3. MATTER RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY SHOP

The following places were selected for the establishment of co-operative society shops during the 3rd five year plan.

- i. For Eastern region - Samdrupjongkhar
- ii. For Southern region - Sarbhang
- iii. For Western region - Phuntsholing

Necessary amendments, if any, would be made during the next Assembly Session.

4. MATTER RELATING TO POWER HOUSE AT THIMPHU

The power house at Thimphu Jongshina was taken over by the Finance Ministry on 1st September 1968. However, in view of the Hon'ble Finance Minister's statement to the Assembly regarding the difficulties faced by his Ministry in looking after the power house, the Assembly resolved to hand over the same to the Ministry of Development with effect from 1st June, 1970.

5. MATTER RELATING TO ASSISTANCE FOR PLOUGHING BULLS

Cattle in Punakha, Wangdi, Thimphu and Southern Bhutan being badly affected by a major disease, sufficient bulls were not available for ploughing. As such, the Hon'ble Development Minister granted Nu. 1 lakh from the Flood Relief Fund, another 1 lakh from the budget of the 3rd Five Year Plan, and 6 tractors to the affected public. Similarly, a sum of Nu. 1 lakh was granted by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Supervision of the procurement of bulls and tractors for the affected public with the above sum of Nu. 3 lakhs would be done by the Home Minister. However, the payment of fuel charges and salary to the Tractor Driver was to be borne by the Ministry of Development, while the concerned land owner was to provide the food. Of the six tractors, two each would be supplied to Punakha, Thimphu and Southern Bhutan.

6. MATTER RELATING TO DOMESTIC ANIMALS

In view of their usefulness, it was decided to procure 150 Mithuns (Bamen) and 325 Siri breed bulls (Chulang) during the 3rd fifth five year plan for distribution to the public. However, if the procurement of 150 Mithuns all at once was not possible, the number available would be purchased and distributed among the public.

7. MATTER RELATING TO THINNING OF FORESTS IN SOUTHERN BHUTAN

The Assembly decided that the thinning of forests in Southern Bhutan should be carried out by the people of Southern Bhutan themselves, who would be paid wages as per the government rate by the Forest Department. No non-nationals were to be employed for the purpose.

After the completion of the thinning works, new tree seedlings would have to be planted. The labourers would be permitted to cultivate the areas in between the planted seedlings, so as to protect these from encroaching cattle. Labourers found taking care of the seedlings for a period of two years after plantation would be rewarded at Nu. 50/- per acre.

8. MATTER RELATING TO GRANT OF LAND TO THE LANDLESS PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN BHUTAN

The Assembly decided to allot land to the landless people of Southern Bhutan in the following order of priority.

- i. Flood affected people
- ii. People who did not possess land from the beginning
- iii. People separated from a house owing to insufficient land.

9. MATTER RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BREEDING

To develop wool in the country for weaving, sheep for breeding would be procured during the 3rd Five Year Plan and distributed to the following places.

Tashigang, Merasakten, Khaling, Kangpara, Gangla, Khema, Bumthang, Tongsa, Seyphu, Lagongsum, Laya, Lungna, Lingshi, Soi, Naro, Tsharlung, Gengey, Mewang, Bartra, Nakja, Dakarla, Sengor, Sibsoo, Chengmari, Gaylegphu, Chirang, Sarbhang, Dagapela and Dorokha.

10. MATTER RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW HOSPITALS

The Ministry of Development had a proposal for establishing hospitals/dispensaries in some important villages in the country. However, the Assembly resolved that hospitals/dispensaries should be established in the following remote areas during the 3rd five year plan.

Jangphu, Maytsho, Khen Gongdi, Lungna, Sombekha and Ketana.

11. MATTER RELATING TO INDIGENOUS MEDICAL TRAINING

With a view to revitalizing indigenous health services in the country, it was decided to impart training to 10 indigenous medical students during the 3rd five year plan.

12. MATTER RELATING TO MEDICINE FOR GOITRE

With a view to preventing the spread of goiter in the country, the Assembly directed the Department of health services to procure iodized salt and establish stores for the same in the border towns. The public may not purchase salt other than iodized salt. However, the iodized salt should be sold at the same rate as the other salt.

13. MATTER RELATING TO IRON BRIDGE IN THE VILLAGES

It was proposed to construct several suspension bridges in the villages during the 3rd five year plan. Therefore, the Assembly resolved that the suspension bridges be constructed in the following places in 3rd five year plan period :

Chento Shari, Chapcha Chumay, Wang Dzong Dangchu, Bumthang Chamkhar, Kurtey Chazam, Langthil, Khen Pankhar, Chhikor, Shingkhar and Tashigang Dagtey.

14. MATTER RELATING TO 'I.B.' (GUEST HOUSE)

All important Dzongkhags would be linked by motorable roads during the 3rd five year plan. Therefore, the construction of rest houses at Punakha, Samchi, Chirang, Gaylegphug, Shemgang, Tongsa, Mongar, Deothang, Tashigang and Ha were deemed necessary. As such, the Assembly resolved that the Ministry of Development would be responsible for the construction and management of the above.

15. MATTER RELATING TO CENTRAL SCHOOLS

The 30 existing primary schools with a strength of 3-44 students in the country would be closed, and 12 central schools with boarding facilities would be established at Thimphu, Paro, Samchi, Sarbhang, Mongar, Tongsa, Tashigang, Punakha, Shemgang, Jakar, Lhuntshi and Deothang. Till the establishment of the 12 central schools, the existing primary schools with a student strength of over 20 would be kept going, while the primary schools with less than 20 students would be merged with nearby schools.

16. MATTER RELATING TO OPENING OF MONASTIC SCHOOLS

With a view to maintaining the customs and traditions of the country, the Assembly resolved to open a monastic school under Central Monk Body for 200 monks. While the rations of the trainees would be provided from the budget of the Central Monk Body, the establishment costs of the monastic school would be met from the budget account of the third five year plan.

17. MATTER RELATING TO THE RIGNEY SCHOOL AT SIMTOKHA

The Rigney school at Simtokha had become an important centre for Buddhist education in the country. Many Bhutanese students there were paying for their own education. As such, the Assembly resolved that stipends would be paid to 150-200 students from the 3rd five year plan budget.

18. MATTER RELATING TO ‘SOKSHING’

As per Article ‘Chaa’ of the Forest Act, the sokshing land registered in thram in the name of the public also fell under government land. As such the public requested that Article ‘Chaa’ of the forest act should be amended. However, the Assembly noted that sokshing land could only be used free of tax for manure purposes as per article Ka-1-1 of the main law. Consequently, the house resolved that in the event of there being trees within the sokshing, it should be reported to the Forest Department, which would mark them for felling. The public would only be permitted to fell the trees on paying royalties as per the government rules.

19. MATTER RELATING TO EXTRACTION OF FIREWOOD

While discussing the prohibition on the extraction of wet trees for firewood as per Article 11 of rule 3 of the Forest Act, the Assembly decided that trees not useable for house construction could be extracted for firewood on obtaining permits either from the Forest Department or from the concerned Dzongda. However, good quality trees marked for the purpose by the Forest Department in areas where other trees were not available could also be used for firewood. Till the establishment of a Forest Range Office in the Dzongkhags, the people could obtain their permit from the concerned Dzongda for the extraction of firewood. A Kasho to this effect was issued to all the Dzongdas by His Majesty the King. The Assembly

resolved that in this connection the Forest Act would be kept as it was without any amendment.

20. MATTER RELATING TO BAMBOO

In some villages cane (Ba) and the small bamboo (Hima) were especially used for feeding livestock. As such, bamboo growing in areas registered as pasture land or Tsheri in the sathram would be exempted from taxation. However, tax would be levied on bamboo used for roofing or for commercial purposes.

21. MATTER RELATING TO GOVERNMENT LANDS NEAR PUBLIC VILLAGES

The Assembly acceded to the Public request that the Government lands within 2 miles of a village be recorded in the sathram as public pasture, but only after the payment of the prescribed land tax. However, should the Government require the land again, it would be entitled to recover it without making any payment.

In the event that any portion of the land was to be allotted to a private party affected by the floods, the concerned Dzongda and the villagers would jointly investigate the matter and accordingly report to the Assembly, which alone was empowered to allot such lands.

22. MATTER RELATING TO COST OF COMMERCIAL PLOTS IN THIMPHU TOWN AREAS

In connection with the plea of the merchants in Thimphu that the cost of commercial plots at Nu.1/-per sq.ft.be reduced, the Assembly observed that since the merchants had only recently set up business, they might be facing genuine monetary difficulties. As such it resolved that though the cost of the plots would remain unchanged, the merchants would be permitted to make their payment in appropriate yearly instalments so that the entire payment could be made within 5 years.

23. MATTER RELATING TO SUBSIDY ENTITLEMENTS

Considering the welfare of the public,His Majesty the King had been pleased to abolish the Chunidom system.However,in the course of discussing the Shaptolayme system, the question of whether the practice of keeping Thenchas should be continued or not was put to the vote.

47 members voted in favour of its continuance while 87 members voted against. As such, the Assembly resolved that henceforth Ministers, Government Officers, Army and Police Officers, Lopons, Gups, Chipons, Chimis, Field Watchers (Thogsungpas), Fire Watchers (Misungpa), Gup's Clerks, Carpenters and Lajabs would not be entitled to Thenchas. The Gups and Chipons would themselves be entitled to exemption from Shaptolayme, but they would not be empowered to exempt others.

24. MATTER RELATING TO VOLUNTEER LABOUR

As, with the abolition of chunidom, many works existed which necessitated the service of labourers, the Assembly decided to introduce the Shaptolayme system, which would be carried out by able bodied males in the age group 17-55. However, a muster roll in triplicate was to be prepared, signed by the concerned gups and the Dzongdas and submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs. For smooth functioning of the volunteer labour force, the Dzongdas and the Gups were to keep copies of the muster rolls.

In this connection, the Assembly resolved that painters and craftsmen in the Government service would be exempted from Shaptolayme. However, those who returned home and stayed back would be engaged in Shaptolayme like the other villagers.

25. MATTER RELATING TO SHINGLES

As per Article 6-GA of the Forest Act, it was strictly forbidden to take samples from the middle of unmarked trees for the purpose of ascertaining whether the wood was suitable for making shingles. However, the Assembly noted that the fact that half the marked trees were unusable was a loss both to the public as well as the Government. Therefore, the Assembly resolved that the Forest Guards, along with the concerned house owners, would jointly inspect trees to study the feasibility of making shingles with their wood. Trees found suitable for the purpose were to be duly marked, and Article 6-GA of the Forest Act would be amended accordingly.

26. MATTER RELATING TO TREE JUICE

Though, as per the Forest Act, the people had been restricted from extracting tree juice, the Assembly decided to permit the people to extract tree juice for polishing and other use on

obtaining permits from the Dzongda. However, people doing business out of it would be levied taxes by the Forest Department and the Dzongda.

27. MATTER RELATING TO CEREMONIAL WORSHIP (KURIM) FOR THE GOVERNMENT

Following the observation of a comet in the sky, the Ven'ble Lamas forecast a period of great turmoil in the country. To reverse this trend they recommended the construction of stupas and the erection of one lakh religious statues. Accordingly, the Government granted Nu.10,000.00 to the Central Monk Body, 5,000.00 each to the Rabdeys of Paro, Wangdi, Tongsa, Tashigang, Lhuntshi and 4,000.00 each to Daga, Shemgang Rabdey for the performance of ceremonial worship (Kurim) for the country. These payments would be paid by the Finance Minister. However, voluntary public contribution would also be welcome. The amount so collected through donation would be put to immediate use for ceremonial worship.

Similarly, the Assembly resolved that the donation contributed by the Southern Bhutanese would be used for the construction of a prayer wheel (Dongkhor) in one of the southern districts.

28. MATTER RELATING TO ALCOHOL AND BEER

The establishment of wine shops in the central villages of the country was restricted some times ago. While again taking up the subject for discussion in the current session, the Assembly resolved that the opening of wine shops would be permitted at the places between Phuntsholing to Thimphu, Paro, Samdrup Jongkhar to Tashigang and Gaylegphug to Tongsa.

29. MATTER RELATING TO THE RENOVATION OF ANCIENT TEMPLES AND MONASTERIES

In view of the crucial importance attached to old temples and monasteries in the country such as Dela Dzong at Paro, the Assembly decided that such temples which were on the verge of ruin were to be renovated by the people concerned under the supervision of the Dzongda, Gups and Chimis.

However, a muster roll to this effect was to be prepared and submitted to the Finance Minister through the concerned Dzongdas for the payment to the people later on, as and when

the aid for the renovation of Temples/Monasteries from the Government of India was received.

30. MATTER RELATING TO EXEMPTION OF POTATO TAX

Although tax on potato production was lifted all over the country, potato tax continued to be levied in Tashigang. As such, the Assembly resolved to stop the levying of potato tax in Tashigang forthwith.

31. MATTER RELATING TO INSECTICIDES

As resolved during 31st session of the National Assembly of Bhutan, the distribution of insecticides to the different villages could not be done as the investigation on the crops affected by the insects could not be completed to date. The Assembly decided on the appointment of a field staff and the establishment of a Pesticide/Insecticide store in each Dzongkhag for the investigation of crops and to supervise the distribution of insecticides to the public during the 3rd five year plan. For the current year, the Assembly resolved that a field staff with the insecticides should be deputed to each Dzongkhag in the middle of the 5th, 6th and 7th months.

32. MATTER RELATING TO THE EXEMPTION OF TAX ON DOGS

With a view to checking the various diseases spread by mad dogs in the town areas, a minimum tax was hitherto levied for the possession of dogs. The question of whether all dogs in the country should be eliminated altogether as a disease control measure was brought up in the Assembly. However, it was decided that Bhutan being a Buddhist country, the killing of dogs should be exclusively restricted to the mad ones.

33. MATTER RELATING TO CGI SHEETS OF SHEMGANG DZONG

The CGI sheets of Shemgang Dzong had been blown by the previous cyclone. As it is one of the important Dzongs of the country, the Assembly resolved that the supply of 80 CGI sheets with screws and other accessories would be supplied by the Government.

34. MATTER RELATING TO THE REVENUES OF DIFFERENT DZONGKHAGS

Uptil now the revenue earnings of the different Dzongkhags were deposited with the Ministry of Finance and their expenditures paid from the Ministry. In this connection, the Finance Minister proposed that as some people were understood to be harbouring misgivings on the issue, the revenue earnings of a particular Dzongkhag be kept in the Dzongkhag itself as before. However, the Assembly ruled that there were no misgivings on the issue. As such, it resolved that the Dzongkhag revenues would continue to be deposited with the Ministry of Finance, which would distribute the expenditures of the various Dzongkhags as before.

35. MATTER RELATING TO WITHDRAWAL OF PRIVATE VEHICLES

The completed motorable roads constructed by DANTAK being handed over to the Government, the Government had now become responsible for their maintenance. Consequently it was decided that so as to enable the Government to earn some revenue, only Government lorries would henceforth be allowed to ply the roads. The Assembly resolved that with effect from 1st January, 1973, the public would not be permitted to ply lorries. However, jeeps would be permissible.

36. MATTER RELATING TO NON-NATIONAL LABOURERS TO BE KEPT IN SOUTHERN BHUTAN

It was learnt that in violation of a Government rule, the people of Southern Bhutan employed non-nationals as farmers and cowboys. As a concession to the public, the Assembly decided to henceforth permit the private employment of non-nationals. However, they would be required to hold permits, which would be issued by the concerned Dzongkhags after due investigation.

37. MATTER RELATING TO INVALIDITY OF OTHER 'KASHOS'

It was observed that the practice of some rich people in certain Dzongkhags of producing Kashos from various dignitaries and thereby excusing themselves from Dzong renovation works was causing great problems to the people. As such it was decided that henceforth only those producing the Kasho of His Majesty the King would be exempted from such works. In this connection, His Majesty the King was pleased to issue a Kasho invalidating the other Kashos issued by various dignitaries. The Assembly endorsed the move.

38. MATTER RELATING TO THE PROMOTION OF DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY TO MINISTER

In view of the exemplary service rendered to the nation by the Deputy Chief Secretary (Donchung) Sangye Penjor, His Majesty the King proposed that he be promoted to the post of Minister for Communication and Permanent Representative of Bhutan at the UNO. When the issue was put to the vote, 127 members voted for the proposal and four against. As such the Assembly resolved to promote the Deputy Chief Secretary.