

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE 41ST SESSION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN HELD ON THE 14TH DAY OF THE 9TH MONTH
OF WOOD TIGER YEAR CORRESPONDING TO 29.10.74**

1. MATTER RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RAMJAM'S OFFICE IN SAMDRUPJONGKHAR

The need to establish an office of Ramjam at Neoly Bhangtar in Samdrup-jongkhar Dzongkhag had been reported to the Assembly on several occasions in the past. It was decided to establish the Ramjam's office in Samdrupjongkhar after ascertaining Royal approval.

2. MATTER RELATING TO SETTLEMENT OF SUKUMBASIS IN SOUTHERN BHUTAN

Regarding settlement of Sukumbasis in Southern Bhutan, the House was informed that new means were being examined by the Royal Government. After completing the investigation and earmarking the areas, the grant of lands to the landless would be initiated.

3. MATTER RELATING TO REQUEST FOR 'SATHRAM'

The people of Southern Bhutan requested that their lands be registered in 'Sathram' on completion of their land transactions. In this regard, the House was informed that there was no problem in registering such lands in 'Sathram' provided the transactions had been carried out as per the Land Act. In the meantime, the Assembly resolved that the Ministry of Home Affairs should issue a circular on transaction procedures for the convenience of the general public.

4. MATTER RELATING TO HOLIDAY FOR CELEBRATION OF HINDU FESTIVALS

The people living in the areas bordering India requested that a holiday be granted to them for celebration of Hindu festivals. Noting that there were no restriction for celebrations of seasonal festivals in different regions of the country, the House decided that it was therefore not necessary to include such holidays in the government holiday list.

5. MATTER RELATING TO LAND OF MONGAR RABDEY

The people of Mongar complained that they were always running at a loss while cultivating the land of Mongar Rabdey on a 'Thojab' basis. As such, the Assembly resolved that the cultivation be done on a share basis instead of 'Thojab'.

6. MATTER RELATING TO QUOTAS OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FROM GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The House was informed that certain quotas of construction materials like CGI sheets, cement, etc., were being supplied by the Government of India. Agencies had been established at Phuntsholing, Samdrupjongkhar and Gaylegphug for the convenience of the public. The people could contact the nearest agencies for supply of the construction materials.

7. MATTER RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL TOOLS

In keeping with the Forest Act, royalties were being imposed on timber used in making various wooden agricultural tools. For example, the royalty on ploughs was being realized at the rate of Nu. 3/- per pair. The public requested that they be granted exemption on the use of timber for such purposes. In this regard, the Assembly decided that the practice would be continued as it was already included in the Forest Act, to which no amendment could be made without the approval of His Majesty the King.

8. MATTER RELATING TO CREATION OF SEPARATE DZONGKHAG OF SHUMAR

On learning that the Mongar Dzongkhag was thickly populated, the Assembly felt that there should be a separate Dzongkhag of Shumar. As such, it was decided to establish a new Dzongkhag office in the existing SDO's office. Some members suggested that as the SDO's office was not suitable for the office of a Dzongda, a new building should be constructed in its place. The construction materials like cement, CGI sheets, would be supplied by the Ministry of Finance, whereas the required labour would be provided by the public on a voluntary basis. The Assembly endorsed the proposal.

9. MATTER RELATING TO CONTINUANCE OF SHAPTOLAYME

It was reported that there had been some controversy over the supply of Shaptolayme needed for renovation of the Punakha Dzong, and that the problem had been brought about by the exemption of thencha from Shaptolayme. The Assembly resolved that the system of 'Shaptolayme' and Thencha should be enforced as in the past.

10. MATTER RELATING TO IRRIGATION FOR NEWLY TERRACED LAND

It was reported that dry lands that had been converted into wet lands in some villages could not be utilized fully as no water was given to them from the old irrigation channels. In this connection, the Assembly decided that the concerned Dzongdas should report the matter to the Hon'ble Home Minister for supply of irrigation facilities after necessary investigation.

11. MATTER RELATING TO ARMY LOADS TO GASA

The public of Punakha expressed their inability to carry loads for the Army base in Gasa owing to the limited number of people in the Dzongkhag. In this regard, the House was informed that the Army had proposed to purchase mules/horses for the purpose. As such, the Assembly decided that the public of Punakha should carry the loads at the revised rate of Nu. 7/- per day till such time as the horses/mules were purchased.

12. MATTER RELATING TO REVISION OF PORTER CHARGES

In view of the problems faced by the public in having to carry government loads at the existing rate of payment, it was decided to revise the porter charge from Nu. 5/- to Nu. 6/- per day.

13. MATTER RELATING TO MAINTENANCE/RENOVATION OF TEMPLES/MONASTERIES

In connection with the request of the public that all government and public temples/monasteries in the country be treated equally and maintained/renovated, accordingly, it was decided that the Resolutions Nos. 29 & 10 of the 32nd and 38th session would be upheld.

14. MATTER RELATING TO MOTORABLE ROAD THROUGH INDIA-BHUTAN BORDER

It was reported that travelling between the markets of Kalikhola and Chengmari entailed passing through India border territory. Therefore, the public felt that it was necessary for the government of Bhutan and India to construct the border roads as soon as possible. As the construction of roads at many places had already been undertaken, it was decided to hold talks with the government of India on the matter.

15. MATTER RELATING TO MOTORABLE ROADS

The house observed that as all the roads leading to Southern Bhutan were routed through India, the people faced great problems in travelling between different parts of the country. As such, they requested that the necessary link roads be constructed within Bhutanese territory. As the construction of such roads was found to be important, it was decided that the Ministry of Development should report the matter to the Lhengye Shuntshog, whose decision should be conveyed to the next session of the Assembly.

16. MATTER RELATING TO MARKET AT SUREYDARA

The village of Sureydara (Gaylegphug) being at a substantial distance from the town of Gaylegphug, it was proposed to open a new market there for the convenience of the public. The Assembly decided that the public and the Dzongda of Gaylegphug should discuss the feasibility of the proposed project and convey their conclusions to the government.

17. MATTER RELATING TO ROAD CONSTRUCTION VIA DAGA DZONG

It was proposed to construct roads from Wangdi to Chirang via Daga Dzong and from Daga Dzong to Chimakothi. In this connection, the House was informed that the proposal had not been included in the plan and, as such, it would not be possible to undertake the said constructions at present.

18. MATTER RELATING TO TAX ON GAMBLING

Resolution No. 32 of the 35th session imposed taxes on gambling in the market, in keeping with which a committee had been formed. However, since no steps had been taken to enforce

the above resolution, the Assembly directed the committee to work out the details of enforcement and submit the same to the forthcoming Assembly session for approval.

19. MATTER RELATING TO BETRAYERS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY

It was reported that some of the persons involved in treason against the King and the country were residing in India. Therefore, it was decided that during His Majesty the King's proposed visit to India the matter should be discussed with Government authorities there, and the outcome reported to the Assembly.

20. MATTER RELATING TO ACCOMPLICES OF NATIONAL BETRAYERS

On the matter of accomplices of persons involved in intrigues against the King and the Country, it was decided that all of them, including the persons associated with Yanki, should be kept in isolation in the remote regions of the country under strict supervision.

21. MATTER RELATING TO RESTRICTION ON SETTLEMENT OF TIBETANS IN MARKET AREAS

It was observed that some of the Tibetans had set up small shops on the roadside and in the market areas. Others had been found in a state of Vagabondage despite having been allotted land for cultivation by the Government. In view of this, the Assembly decided that all the Tibetans should be restricted from setting up business on the roadside as well as in the main market areas.

22. MATTER RELATING TO SETTLEMENT AND EMIGRATION OF TIBETANS OF UNFIXED DOMICILE

The House resolved that the Tibetans in general as were willing to abide by the country's laws, customs and traditions, and were prepared to give their unfailing loyalty to the King, would be permitted to settle in the country. Regarding those who were not willing to abide by the above terms, it was decided that the Royal Government would be empowered to decide what action should be taken against them.

23. MATTER RELATING TO BREACH OF LAW

The house expressed its concern in respect of some of the Tibetans entering and staying in Bhutan without obtaining valid identity cards. Suspicions were also raised about the possibility of some Tibetans trained in arms staying in the country illegally. As such, it was decided that such illegal settlement would not be permitted within the country.

24. MATTER RELATING TO REVISION OF WAGES

The Public of Radhi (Tashigang) and Lamidara (Chirang) requested that the prevailing wages be revised. In this regard, it was informed that the revision would not be effected during the 3rd Five Year Plan owing to financial constraints. Therefore, the Assembly decided that the proposal should be considered for inclusion in the 4th Five Year Plan.

25. MATTER RELATING TO SECURITY FOR HIS MAJESTY

In view of the changing time in the country, most of the members proposed that the security arrangements for His Majesty the King had to be tightened to prevent mishappenings. Therefore, the Assembly has resolved that the arrangement for tightening the security for His Majesty should be made by the Government.

26. MATTER RELATING TO DEMARCATION OF GRAZING LAND

Regarding the demarcation of grazing land at Khatey and Khamey in Ha district, it was informed that the issue would be finalized only on holding talks between Bhutan and China. Therefore, the Assembly urged that the matter be pursued and settled as soon as possible.

27. MATTER RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SCHOOLS

Regarding the request for the construction of new schools by the public of Southern Bhutan, the Assembly decided that, as the matter had not been included in the current plan, it would be taken up in the next plan subject to the availability of funds.

28. MATTER RELATING TO REQUIREMENT OF SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STATIONERY

It was learnt that several schools were facing an acute shortage of teachers and stationery. At the same time it was suggested that the salaries of teachers be revised and private schools converted into government schools. In this connection, the Assembly resolved to follow the departmental plan with regards to education, except the command works of His Majesty and HRH Ashi Dechen Wangmo Wangchuck, Representative of His Majesty in the Ministry of Development.

29. MATTER RELATING TO SHEMGANG CENTRAL SCHOOL

It was reported that as the villages of Shemgang were spread wide apart, and separated by rivers and mountains, school going children of the area faced great problems. Therefore, it was felt that if the Shemgang school was upgraded to a central school, it would be of great benefit not only to the children of Shemgang but to those of the adjoining districts of Tongsa and Bumthang as well. Accordingly the Assembly endorsed the proposal to upgrade Shemgang School to a central school.

30. MATTER RELATING TO DECHENPHODRANG MONASTIC SCHOOL

Although the Department of Education was extending assistance in the running of the Dechenphodrang Monastic School of the Central Monastic Body, it was requested that board and lodging facilities be granted to it as well as was being done for the Simtokha Rigney School. The monastic school being one of the important schools in the country, the Assembly decided to consider the request for inclusion in the 4th Five Year Plan.

31. MATTER RELATING TO UPGRADATION OF PHUNTSHOLING SCHOOL

Considering the importance and heavy population of Phuntsholing, the Assembly decided to upgrade the Phuntsholing Primary School to a Central School from the 4th Five Year Plan.

32. MATTER RELATING TO ADMISSION OF NON-NATIONAL CHILDREN

It was learnt that some non-national children were being admitted to schools in the country without consideration of the increasing hindrance thus resulting to the admission of Bhutanese children. As such, it was decided that the admission of non-national children should be considered only after the admission of the Bhutanese children. In this connection, it was also decided that only those children whose parents were serving the country would be admitted.

33. MATTER RELATING TO CHANG GANGKHA SCHOOL

The Thimphu Chang Gangkha Junior High School being located in the capital, there was a great rush for admission, so that not all seeking enrollment could be accommodated. In order

to overcome the problem, the Assembly decided to upgrade the school to a Central School with boarding facilities for admission of children of the poor.

34. MATTER RELATING TO VISIT OF LEPROSY DOCTOR

In view of the increasing incidence of leprosy cases, the Department of Health Services was to arrange the visit of a leprosy doctor for treatment of patients in different places in the country. Therefore, the House was informed that the chimis/gups should direct all the leprosy patients to the doctor for treatment. In the event that the patients failed to report to the doctor, the concerned chimis/ gups would be held responsible. The Assembly also decided that they would be liable to be punished if they failed in the duties assigned to them.

35. MATTER RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIL HOSPITALS AT WANGDI AND HA

The house learnt that the military hospitals at Wangdi and Ha were not able to provide adequate medical facilities to the public. As such the Assembly decided that two civil hospitals one each at Wangdi and Ha, would be established during the 4th Five Year Plan.

36. MATTER RELATING TO DZONGKHA TEXT BOOKS

It was resolved in the previous session that official correspondence should be carried out in 'Choekey'. In view of the fact that the people of Southern Bhutan as well as many of those living in the remote place did not know Dzongkha, the Department of Education had distributed Dzongkha text books as per command of His Late Majesty the King. Meanwhile, the question of the use of 'Choekey' once Dzongkha became popular was also debated. As no decision could be reached on the matter, His Majesty the King was pleased to command that 'Choekey' should be used in all the monastic schools, including the Simtokha Rigney School, while Dzongkha based on Choekey should be taught in the schools of predominantly non-Dzongkha speaking areas.