

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 46TH SESSION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN HELD ON THE 17TH DAY OF 4TH MONTH OF
FIRE SNAKE YEAR CORRESPONDING TO 9.6.1977**

1. MATTER RELATING TO MOTORABLE ROAD TOWARDS GASA

With regards to the construction of a motorable road towards Gasa, the Assembly decided that the Forest Department and the Ministry of Development would jointly investigate the matter to determine its importance and possible benefits, and accordingly submit a report to the next session of the Assembly.

2. MATTER RELATING TO ALLOTMENT OF LAND FOR CASHCROPS

The Assembly discussed the public demand for allotment of land for plantation of cash crops like oranges and cardamom. In view of the fact that land was being distributed to the landless, the Assembly decided to wait until this distribution was completed, after which land for cash crops would be allotted on a priority basis to people who had no such land.

3. MATTER RELATING TO APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT OF RULES AND REGULATIONS OF PASTURE LAND

The Assembly approved the draft of Rules and Regulations on pasture land prepared, as per His Majesty's command, by the Royal Advisory Council and the High Court for the general welfare of the public. These Rules and Regulations were to be included in the Land Act.

4. MATTER RELATING TO LAND UNDER THIMPHU TOWNSHIP

The Assembly discussed the difficulties of people whose land had fallen under the government's Thimphu township areas. It was pointed out that gradually all the land at Thimphu would fall under Thimphu Township. However, the public could occupy the vacant land around the township till such time as the Government occupied it fully. The government would provide substitute land and other assistance to the people whose land had fallen under the township areas.

5. MATTER RELATING TO CONVERSION OF 'SOKSHING' INTO CULTIVABLE LAND

Taking up the matter of conversion of 'Sokshing' into cultivable land, the Assembly noted that since 'Sokshing' was specially meant for manure, it was not supposed to be converted into cultivable land as per rules and regulations. Though the people who had already done

would be excused in future and all would have to abide by resolution No. 3 of the 45th session of the National Assembly.

6. MATTER RELATING TO GRANT OF FACILITIES TO MONDALS

Agreeing that it was necessary to give more facilities to gups, the Assembly nevertheless decided that the move would have to be postponed in view of the high expenditure and low income of the Government. Since the income of the Government was expected to improve by 1981, the above demand would be re-considered at that time by the government.

7. MATTER RELATING TO MARRIAGE WITH FOREIGNERS

The Assembly discussed in detail and subsequently approved the draft of rules and regulations on marriage with foreigners prepared by the Royal Advisory Councillors under His Majesty's command.

8. MATTER RELATING TO BHUTANESE CITIZENSHIP

The Bhutanese Citizenship Act of 1958, which was revised and amended by the Royal Advisory Council, was submitted to and approved by the National Assembly.

9. MATTER RELATING TO RECTIFICATION OF THE FOREST POLICY

The article e/4 of Chapter I of the Forest policy 1969 was mis-translated into Bhutanese. On taking up the matter, the Assembly decided that the Department of Forest should rectify the article and submit it to the next Assembly Session.

10. MATTER RELATING TO FUND FOR THE BUILDINGS OF THE PUBLIC DAMAGED BY FIRE

The previous Assembly decision on the matter did not clarify whether the contribution towards the insurance fund for the buildings of the public damaged by fire was to be made as per number of houses or number of households (Gungdang).

Therefore, the Assembly resolved that this would be reviewed and discussed in the next Assembly session after taking into account the convenience of both the government and the public.

11. MATTER RELATING TO HEALTH CONTRIBUTION

The annual expenditure of the Department of Health Services totalled Nu.109 lakhs. Since the Health Services provided for all categories of people free of cost, the Assembly approved the draft proposal for collecting health contribution from the Government servants and other groups on the basis of their income.

12. MATTER RELATING TO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The Assembly proposed to seek assistance from other countries in view of the fact that although the Geological Survey of Bhutan started functioning many years ago, it had not been able to achieve much as yet. The Minister for Trade, Industry and Forests attributed this to the paucity of funds and Geological experts. He said the exploitation of mines and minerals had to be preceded by a thorough study to determine its economic implications to the country. The Penden Cement Factory would soon begin to supply cement, and it was hoped that the mines and minerals too would be exploited gradually.

13. MATTER RELATING TO EXPORT OF APPLES, POTATOES ETC

The Assembly discussed the prospects of profitable governmental export of cash crops produced by the farmers. The Assembly was informed that, as per command by His Majesty, the Food Corporation of Bhutan and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Forest would first study the prospects of export to India. If these were not satisfactory the cash crops would be exported to other countries through STCB Calcutta.

14. MATTER RELATING TO HARDWARE STORE (KHIMCHHEY TSHONGKHANG)

The house discussed the requirement of one hardware store (Khimchhey Tshongkhang) each at Gaylegphug and Samchi Division respectively. It was pointed out that though there was a private agent at Gaylegphug, he did not possess sufficient capital. It was therefore decided that the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Forest would open an agency at Gaylegphug very soon. The opening of a hardware agency at Samchi was kept pending for the time being.

15. MATTER RELATING TO PERMIT FOR GOING ABROAD

It was observed that nationals wishing to travel abroad sometimes obtained permits from District Officers in order to avoid delay. Since this practice entailed risks, the Assembly resolved that such cases should be channelled through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for obtaining visa from the concerned Embassy.

In this connection it was also stated that, for the convenience of pilgrims to Nepal, the Government of Nepal had been consulted and arrangements had been made for the visa for entering Nepal to be made available at Birganth near Bihar, Kakarbita on the border of West Bengal and at Kathmandu Airport. The extension of the visa could be obtained at Kathmandu, Nepal itself.

16. MATTER RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF T.B. HOSPITAL AT GAYLEGPUG

While discussing the public demand for a T.B. Hospital at Gaylegphug, the Assembly decided that since it had not been included in the 5th Five Year Plan, it would not be possible to establish the same.

17. MATTER RELATING TO ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES

Regarding the public request for the grant of assistance, including supply of necessary material, for construction of private dispensaries, the Assembly stated that the government would be in a position to issue the materials as per the terms and conditions laid down previously.

18. MATTER RELATING TO EXEMPTION OF PUBLIC FROM PAYING HEALTH CONTRIBUTION

As per His Majesty's command, villagers were exempted from paying Health contribution for the time being.

19. MATTER RELATING TO PARENT'S CONTRIBUTION

The Assembly acceded to the request of the Department of Education that a contribution be imposed on parents for their children's education on the basis of over-all income from land, cattle, sheep, trucks, salary etc.

20. MATTER RELATING TO THE SCHEME FOR GIVING WELFARE LOANS TO FARMERS

With regard to the welfare loans being given to farmers by the Food Corporation of Bhutan, a request was made by the public for the formulation of a new system in granting the loans. The Assembly however resolved to retain the present system.

21. MATTER RELATING TO COST OF CARDAMOM ETC

The public sought permission to sell cardamom etc. to the Food Corporation of Bhutan at the prevailing market rate. His Majesty let it to be known that the Food Corporation of Bhutan had been opened for the benefit of the public who failed to dispose off their yields satisfactorily and thus suffered losses. To secure the welfare of the public, the Food Corporation of Bhutan was running without benefit. However, if this procedure was unacceptable to certain members of the public of Chirang, the matter would be investigated and suitable rates fixed.

22. MATTER RELATING TO IRRIGATION CHANNEL MAINTENANCE FUND

It was decided to impose a tax of Nu. 5/- per acre per annum on people whose land had been developed through the government's special irrigation schemes.

23. MATTER RELATING TO APPROVAL OF DRAFT ON ELECTRICITY RULES

The Assembly approved for enforcement the draft rules and regulations on supply of power and use of electricity duly submitted by the Hydel Directorate.

24. MATTER RELATING TO ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

On the expiration of the term of the Venerable Yanglop Nidup of the monk body as Speaker, the Assembly expressed deep appreciation for the devoted and capable service rendered by him during his successful tenure.

Though it was the turn of a public representative to become the new Speaker, it was felt that such fine distinctions were unnecessary as both the members of the public and the government officials were subjects of Bhutan. Accordingly, His Majesty proposed the name of the Hon'ble Home Minister as the new Speaker in view of the latter's great experience. The Assembly endorsed the proposal and unanimously elected the Hon'ble Lyonpo T.Jagar as Speaker for a term of 3 years.