

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING 33RD SESSION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN HELD ON 8.11.1970 CORRESPONDING TO 10TH
DAY 9TH MONTH OF IRON DOG YEAR**

1. MATTER RELATING TO SALE AND PURCHASE OF LAND BY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE PARTIES

For the development of the country, the Ministries of Development, Trade and Industry and the Civil Departments would have to acquire land for the establishment of Industries and construction of government buildings. The land for the above purpose as far as possible was to be acquired from the vacant government land and not from the cultivable land of the public. If, however, lands near Dzongs or villages were required for the construction of schools or roads, the people would be compensated at the rate of Nu.400/- per 1/4 langdo of wet land Nu.200/- per langdo of dry land. Alternatively, if there was any vacant government land in the vicinity, it would be allotted free of cost.

Additionally, the Assembly resolved that all kinds of land transactions among the public themselves would be governed by the existing rules.

2. MATTER RELATING TO DECREASE OF PARENT'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

In the meeting of the Ministers and the Royal Advisory Councillors, the guardians of the students studying in Bhutan and abroad were to be required to contribute additional expenditure towards the education according to their income. Since the guardians of the students, businessmen and government officials presented a representation for the decrease of the contribution, the Minister for Development agreed to decrease the contribution by half.

As such, the Assembly decided that the contribution in future would be half the present contribution.

3. MATTER RELATING TO LABOUR CONTRIBUTION BY NEPALIS IN DAGANA

The Nepalese of Dagana and Changkhar had been hitherto required to contribute labour to the Daga Dzong. Since they were newly settled residents, it was decided to impose a labour contribution of only one person for every six persons for a period of 3 years. It was also

decided that after completion of 3 years the supply of labour would be fixed by the National Assembly of Bhutan.

4. MATTER RELATING TO SETTLEMENT OF NEPALIS IN AREAS UNDER DAGA DZONG

With the passage of time, the once well-populated areas in the vicinity of the ancient Daga Dzong had gradually thinned in population, so much so that the maintenance of the Dzong began to suffer for lack of labourers. Last year 176 households of Changkhar were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Daga Dzong. The reason for this was that although Changkhar is under Chirang Sub-division, the arrangement was inconvenient for both the people and the government administration since Changkhar was separated from the rest of Chirang Sub-division by a river. Besides, as per the Master Register of land (Satharm), Changkhar belonged to Dagana. It was therefore, decided that the 303 Nepali households at Changkhar would be transferred to the jurisdiction of Dagana Dzong. Labour contribution would be imposed as per the resolution No. 3 above. The Assembly also resolved that the taxes as in other frontier areas would be paid to Daga Dzong.

5. MATTER RELATING TO AMALGAMATION OF DEOTHANG AND SAMDRUPJONGKHAR SUB-DIVISION

As per decision No. 7 of the Autumn session of the Fire Horse Year, Deothang Sub-division was re-amalgamated to the Southern Administration. However, the people later again requested through the Mongar Dzongda and the Lhotsham Chichap that because of the land problem, they be transferred to the southern jurisdiction. This arrangement would be convenient due to the proximity to and the continuity with the southern district and would also avoid the establishment costs of 2 S.D.Os in a single place, thereby benefiting the government.

It was, therefore, decided to abolish the post of Deothang S.D.O and merge Deothang sub-division with the sub-division of Samdrupjongkhar.

6. MATTER RELATING TO BUDGET

The absence of a budget system in the country had greatly inconvenienced the Audit Department and had often placed the Finance Ministry in difficulties. As such, it was decided

that, with effect from January 1971, on the basis of present income and expenditure, Civil Officers were to prepare a budget estimate within which they would function. At the same time, the Ministers and the Royal Advisory Council were to prepare a Financial Manual governing the implementation of the budget and hand it over to the Finance Minister.

7. MATTER RELATING TO DUTY ON FOREIGN GOODS

Till now no customs duty was imposed on foreign goods imported by Government Departments and private parties into Bhutan. The Assembly resolved that from 1971 only those imported goods that were purchased for Government use or received in the form of foreign aid would be exempted from customs duty. Such goods imported into Bhutan or purchased for sale in the country by private individuals, irrespective of their status, would be levied duties.

Two government officers would be posted at Calcutta to work in liaison with the Indian Customs authorities. They would levy the prescribed duties as per the Indian Customs rates and submit their monthly accounts to the Ministry of Finance once every six months.

8. MATTER RELATING TO FIRE ACCIDENT COMPENSATION

In view of the fact that fire accidents in rural houses often caused great suffering to the people, the Assembly decided to increase the amount of compensation in such cases. However, the fixation of compensation would be made by the Ministers and the Royal Advisory Council.

9. MATTER RELATING TO RESTRICTION ON IMPORT OF CERTAIN FOREIGN GOODS

Hitherto, there were no restrictions on import of foreign goods into the country. Henceforth, however, the Assembly decided to impose a complete ban on the import of goods from Nepal. As such, proper arrangements were to be made at the Indo-Nepal border to closely check the entry of such goods into Bhutan.

10. MATTER RELATING TO FLOOD RELIEF FUND ACCOUNTS

During the Earth Monkey Year heavy damages were caused by floods. The government of India granted a sum of Nu. 40 lakhs towards the flood relief work in Bhutan. In addition to

this, a sum of approximately Nu. 5 lakhs was spent by the Development Ministry for relief works in various parts of the country. The details were as follows:

- a) Amount spent by Ministry of Finance on relief work Nu.11,00,000.00 for renovation affected irrigation channel.
- b) Amount spent by Ministry of Home on relief work Nu.55,000.00 for renovation of affected irrigation channel.
- c) Amount spent by Ministry of Home for the renovation of Monasteries Nu.1,00,000.00.
- d) Amount spent for purchase of bulls for ploughing Nu.1,00,000.00.
- e) Amount spent for purchase of tools and implements etc. for relief work by Ministry of Development Nu.30,58,092.81.
- f) Amount spent towards cost of one bulldozer, deducted by Government of India Nu. 79,130.03. Nu. 44,92,222.84

Additional amount spent over and above Government of India's grant was Nu.4,92,222.84.

11. MATTER RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY

Bhutan being a Buddhist country, great importance was attached to its sacred books. Unfortunately, many of these were found to be in a state of decay. As such, the Government decided to establish a National Library, for which provisions had been made in the five year plan of the Development Ministry. As it would take some time before the funds were made available, it was decided to go ahead with the project. The Finance and Development Ministries were to assist in commencing the construction of the building as soon as possible.

12. MATTER RELATING TO ANTIQUES AND BOOKS OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

With a view to preserving antiques and books of historical importance that were now in private hands, it was decided that the government would purchase the same from available sources at the prevailing rates for the National Museum at Paro and the National Library.

In the event that such items were taken on a hire basis by the Government, proper receipts would be issued to the owner guaranteeing the return of the same. The Assembly however resolved that the people would not be permitted to sell such items outside the country.

13. MATTER RELATING TO ECCLESIASTICAL LANDS

In view of the pervasive influence of the Central Monk Body and the monastic organizations in the country, their expenses had so far been met by the government. However, they had now requested the Assembly that henceforth they be permitted to possess their own lands. Noting the heavy financial burden placed on the government in meeting the expenses of the monastic bodies and appreciating the advantages that would result from their being self-sufficient, the Assembly called upon these organizations to find appropriate lands and report back to the government, which would purchase the same for them. The government would also assist in the event that and development was necessary. The Development Ministry would assist in the construction of irrigation canals within the plan programme.

14. MATTER RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE ROYAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Since the terms of Royal Advisory Council members Kesang Sherap of Eastern Bhutan and Thinley Zangpo of Western Bhutan had expired, new members were selected by the Assembly.

1. The results of the vote for replacement of Thinley Zangpo were as follows :

Gasepa Pasa Dorji	- 31 votes
Shengna Gup Khandu	- 47 votes
Ex-Gup of Tewang Hothoe	- 51 votes

2. The results of the vote for replacement of Kesang were as follows:

Tashigang, Dawa	- 16 votes
Kurteo Ngawang	- 18 votes
Chakaling Lama Sanga	
Eastern Bhutan	- 91 votes

Tewang Hothoe and Chakaling Lama Sanga were elected as members.

The Royal Advisory Councillors representing the people would serve the stipulated 3 year term.

15. MATTER RELATING TO THE RESTRICTION ON HUNTING WILD BIRDS AND ANIMALS

Hunting of Musk deer, birds and other wild animals was strictly prohibited by the law. However, it was reported that such illegal activities were going on unchecked. It was agreed by the Dzongdas and the public representatives that they would solicit the co-operation of the people in ensuring that the above prohibition was effectively enforced. Defaulters would be promptly reported to the government. The Assembly endorsed the measure.

16. MATTER RELATING TO IRRIGATION CHANNELS

It was found that owing to the negligence of village heads, the renovation of construction of many irrigation channels were not progressing at a satisfactory rate. As such, the Assembly decided that henceforth the public representatives should expedite the completion of these works. The following person were nominated by the Assembly for looking after the works mentioned against their names.

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| 1. | Sri Lango Yeshey | - Paro Jagathang |
| 2. | Shah Ugen | - Paro Shap Bara |
| 3. | Gyele Get hen
Bechhuang and
Gongchhu | - Wangdiphodrang |
| 4. | Radi Dhendup | - Tashigang Radi Fomey |
| 5. | Ramzam Lhendup Dorji | - Bidung |
| 6. | Lamthi Tashi Tshering | - Dadung & Benkhar Tongsa |
| 7. | a. Babsatu Chang Byisi | - Tobeycha |
| | b. Mewang Dorji Phub | - Lobeyisa |
| | c. Phangsho Dorji
Gyeltshen | - Lobeyisa |
| | d. Gesey | - Lobeyisa |
| | e. Tewang Hothoe | - Lobeyisa |
| 8. | Dil Bahadur Ghaley | - Sibsoo & Pinjuli |

It was resolved that the above should complete the stipulated works and report the next Assembly session. They would get a Lajap's salary. The people belonging to the concerned areas were to continue sending labour without fail till the works were completed. A copy of the monthly Muster Roll would be sent to the Ministry of Finance. Absentees would be fined Nu.3/- per day. Such channels which had sustained heavy damage and were not repairable by the people would be taken over by the Development Ministry. The concerned people themselves would have to undertake the minor repairs.

17. MATTER RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF BULLS FOR PLOUGHING

As per decision No. 5 of the last summer session of the Assembly, a sum of Nu. 2 lakhs was to be given to the Home Ministry by the Development Ministry for the purchase of bulls. The Assembly decided that from the above sum, Nu.75,000/- should be given by the Development Ministry out of the funds allotted for wheat seed during the current year. The Home Ministry would purchase bulls and distribute the same to the people in need of ploughing bulls.

18. MATTER RELATING TO ARMY RECRUITMENT

It was found that, owing to the release of personnel, particularly on compassionate grounds following the death of family members, the strength of the Army was gradually decreasing. In order to raise the strength of the Army to 4,850, the Assembly resolved that 600-700 men be recruited annually. The concerned Dzongda, gup and public representative would be responsible for selecting suitable persons. Those recruited, especially the fit and capable, would not be released for attending to their domestic affairs. However, should domestic difficulties require the presence of a family member at home, a brother or relative of the concerned recruit in civil or monastic service would be released for filling up the need. An army recruit could however be released in the event of incapability.

19. MATTER RELATING TO BHUTAN'S REPRESENTATIVE AT DELHI

Bhutan and India were not only close neighbours, but also tied together by the bond of friendship. In order to efficiently implement the various aid and assistance programme and for expediting matters of mutual interest, the Special Officer of India had been stationed in Bhutan for the last 3 years. In order to help these matters further, it was felt that Bhutan

should have a representative stationed at Delhi. It was proposed that Lhotsam Chichap Pema Wangchuk should be elevated to the rank of Minister and appointed as a permanent representative of Bhutan to Delhi. The proposal was carried by 135 votes to 3.

20. MATTER RELATING TO HIS MAJESTY'S VISIT TO DELHI

As mentioned in paragraph 1 of the Royal Document addressed to the Assembly by His Majesty the King, during his visit to Bhutan His Excellency the President of India invited the King and Crown Prince of Bhutan to visit Delhi. The Assembly was unanimous in the view that in the interest of the extremely good relations between the two countries, His Majesty and the crown prince should visit Delhi. It was decided that His Majesty and the crown prince should visit Delhi sometime in February next.

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