

## **1st Five Year Plan (1961-1966)**

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The first 5 Year Plan set Bhutan on the way to planned national development. With an approved outlay of 1747 lakhs of rupees the plan aimed at creating in the country

Basic infrastructural facilities like roads, power, communication system, transport , agriculture and animal husbandry.

It provided for the development of various project viz. , (1) Roads – 620 lakhs, (2) Education – 100 lakhs (3) Transport – 75 lakhs, (4) Health – 32 lakhs, (5) Forests – 32 lakhs, (6) Agriculture – 20 lakhs, (7) Power – 16 lakhs, (8) Animal Husbandry – 15 Lakhs, (9) Industries – 11 lakhs and (10) Miscellaneous – 91 Lakhs.

The main achievements of the First Five Years Plan can now be described as under:

(1) 1770kms of roads were constructed including the 208 kms highway which connected Phuntsholing on the Indian borders with Paro and Thimphu. Other roads constructed were from Paro to Haa, from Tashigang to Darrang , and from Sarbang and Gelegphu to Charing and Trongsa.

(2) Improvements were effected in the road transport systems, and communication facilities on the modern lines were begun in the country.

(3) In the field of education, considerable progress was made. By 1966 there were 108 schools in Bhutan, including 2 public schools with a total enrolment of 15000 students.

(4) A Public Health Department under a chief medical officer was set up at Thimphu. Steps were taken to eradicate malaria. 3 hospitals and 40 new dispensaries were established in different parts of country.

(5)Department of Agriculture was established, which started a number of model agricultural farms, seeds multiplication farms, agricultural research station, and development of extension work. Efforts were made to increase the area under fruit and vegetable cultivation.

(6) A department of Animal Husbandry was set up and many live stock and sheep breeding farms were established in different parts of the country.

(7) The forest department of Bhutan initiated many measures for conserving the forest wealth and the exploitation of the forest products.

(8) Steps were taken in concert with Geological Survey of India to discover deposits of coal, dolomite, graphite, gypsum and lime stone.

(9) The Production capacities of the fruits preserving plants at Samtse and also a distillery there were increased , and theirs sale and marketing was organised in the country and India. Trade relations with India were improved.

(10) The Bhutan Government established a hydel directorate and two 400 KW Hydel Projects were constructed to served the needs of Thimphu and Paro. By an agreement with India, and Bhutan received 250 KW of power daily from the Jaldhaka river hydroelectric project for its south western region.

The achievements of the First Five Years Development Plan satisfied both Bhutan and India, an in order to accomplish a continued advance towards modernization and economic development of the country the second Five Year Plan was launched in 1966

S. No.	Items	Pro(mil.)
1	Road	62.00
2	Education	10.00
3	Transport	7.50
4	Health	3.20
5	Forest	3.20
6	Agriculture	2.00
7	Power	1.60
8	Animal Husbandry	1.50
9	Industries	1.10
10	Miscellaneous	9.10
	Total	101.20

With the outlay of 62 million, more than 900 kilometers of roads were constructed. The main among them was 208 km long highway linking Phuentsholing on the Indian border with the capital Thimphu and Paro crossing the altitude as high as 10,000 feet. This opened up western Bhutan in a most remarkable manner to the development. The road from Paro was extended upto Haa. To the East Trashigang was linked with Darranga. "Roads from southern foothill town of Sarpang and Gelegphu running north to Tsirang and Trongsa opened southern and central Bhutan with the market in India. With the occupation of Tibet by Chinese in 1949-50, all trade with Tibet and China virtually come to an end. Thus was the reason why road system of Bhutan is directed towards Indian border.

Work was continued for the years 1961– 66 on a 480 km west to east lateral road between Thimphu and Trashigang and with its completion, Bhutan got effectively served by a regular system of road work. The organisation of road transport service was made it necessary for starting automobile workshop at Phuentsholing and Thimphu.

A formal postal system was introduced into the country only in 1962 with its 36 post offices opened in Bhutan for the easiness to send messages to a distance.

A public health department under a chief medical officer was set up at Thimphu. "Steps were taken to eradicate malaria. 31 hospitals and 40 new dispensaries were established in different parts of the country."

"The development programme has brought with it the establishment of the regular department of agriculture which has started a large number of modern agricultural farms, seed multiplication farms, agriculture research stations and development of extension works."

Bhutan preserves the very rare wildlife and wild plants. For the protection of such rare and precious animals a wild life sanctuary was set up in the forest of Manas.

The Hydel Directorate (of India) had sponsored in the construction of 400kw Hydel Project at Thimphu to serve the capital and another to serve the western Bhutan at Paro of 400kw.

With the completion of First Five Year Development Plan both India and Bhutan were satisfied. The people began to feel the progress in the field of modernisation and further development of the country. With these encouragement and in order of accomplish a continued advance towards modernisation and economic development of the country, the Second Five Year Development Plan was launched in 1966.