

# ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN



## FULFILMENT OF PLEDGES

*In Pursuit of Equity and Justice*

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

LYONCHHEN JIGMI YOEZER THINLEY

ON

THE STATE OF THE NATION

(4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013)

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# FULFILMENT OF PLEDGES

## *In pursuit of Equity & Justice*

Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) received the mandate to form the first democratically elected government in March 2008. This honour and historic privilege was received on the basis of the vision and pledges offered to the people by the party through its manifesto. Thus, the manifesto is a sacred contract between the people and the elected government to serve the Tsa-wa Sum. It is the basis on which the people must now determine as to whether the Royal Government has served its purpose. It is the basis on which the Royal Government must submit itself to the judgement of the people.

This report, presented in a tabular form for easy perusal, lists 153 pledges made in the manifesto and rates the extent to which these have been fulfilled by the Royal Government.

Summary of performance:

PLEDGES FULLY FULFILLED (FF):	135✓	88.24%	(FF + PF = 98.04%)
PLEDGES PARTIALLY FULFILLED (PF):	15✓	09.80%	
PLEDGES NOT FULFILLED (NF):	03✓	01.96%	

*(The fulfilment rate has been assessed by taking into account the three values of (i) Fully Fulfilled (FF) (ii) Partially Fulfilled (PF) and (iii) Not Fulfilled (NF). The partially fulfilled pledge shall mean that some policy or actions may have been taken in the direction indicated by the pledge, but falling short of full realization.)*

**The FULLY FULFILLED (FF) and PARTIALLY FULFILLED (PF) combined is 98.04%.**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, through which the DPT manifesto was implemented, was the most ambitious plan with a total budget outlay of over Nu. 148 billion (revised to Nu. 150 billion). It is 114% larger than the 9<sup>th</sup> FYP outlay of Nu. 70 billion.

The Government further secured Nu. 101.90 billion outside the 10<sup>th</sup> FYP for the three ongoing hydropower projects, Nu. 2.05 billion for Chiphen Rigpel project, and Nu. 2.15 billion for the establishment of the new University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan.

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
<b>I</b>	<b>Pillar 1: Equitable and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development</b>				
1	We aim to achieve a healthy economic growth rate of 9% per annum.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ IMF in 2013 refers to Bhutan as the fourth fastest growing economy in the world</li> <li>❖ Growth rates over the past four financial years were as follows: 5.7% in 2008-09; 9.3% in 2009-10; 10.01% in 2010-11 and 8.89% (provisional in 2011-12). It is projected to be 9.9% (IMF estimate) in calendar year 2012. Given the projection of 9.44% in 2013, the growth over the five-year period may reach close to 9%</li> <li>❖ Such a high growth rate has been achieved despite the global financial crisis and general economic slowdown</li> <li>❖ This has also been possible against Bhutan's strong environmental policy, such as the increase in forest cover from 72.49% in 1995 to 81.03% in 2010, which puts a limit to economic activities</li> </ul>
2	Registration and licensing procedures will be simplified and time bound. "One-Stop Shops" will be established to provide efficient and timely services and spare the private sector the harrowing experience of having to run from pillar to post and having to overcome one bureaucratic hurdle after another.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Online system being implemented by G2C Project and the following are all in advanced stages of implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Company Registry Division - name clearance</li> <li>➤ Industrial Development Division - medium and large domestic application</li> <li>➤ Project Coordination Division - industry information system</li> <li>➤ FDI Promotion Division - FDI application</li> <li>➤ Retail and wholesale trade licenses</li> <li>➤ Import house registration and import license</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>These activities are substantially reducing the administrative burden on citizens including citizen travel time and total turnaround time in availing a service</p>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Department of Cottage and Small Industry together with the G2C have automated a total of 11 cottage and small business services</li> <li>❖ The drafting of the Enterprise Registration Bill is in the final stages of completion. The bill will provide a legal framework for sole proprietorship and partnership businesses unlike in the past</li> <li>❖ A draft Licensing Policy has been submitted to the GNH Commission for approval. The licensing policy will help reduce burden on businesses and rationalise the existing licensing regime while ensuring compliance with Bhutan's regulatory requirements</li> <li>❖ Through community centres which function as a <i>One-Stop Shop</i> for all G2C services, a total of 1,283 micro trade registration certificates have been issued online since April 2012. These services are now being delivered in a matter of just one day</li> </ul>
3	A Monopolies and Business Malpractices Bill will be presented to the National Assembly.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A draft framework for Competition Policy/Law has been formulated based on the framework of which the Policy and Law will be developed</li> <li>❖ Additionally, the following Acts have been enacted which have direct impact on business practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bhutan Standard Act 2010</li> <li>➤ Royal Monetary Act 2010</li> <li>➤ Anti-Corruption Act 2011</li> <li>➤ Financial Services Act 2011</li> <li>➤ Sales tax, Customs and Excise Act 2012</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	A Consumer Protection Bill covering goods and services shall be formulated to protect and promote the interests of consumers.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Consumer Protection Act was enacted in 2012</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
5	An FDI Act shall be enacted to provide policy stability and investor confidence and the definition of FDI shall be broadened to facilitate regional investments.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The FDI Policy of 2002 was revised and adopted in 2010 to allow for a more liberal approach towards investments including a move from a positive list approach to a negative list approach. For investments from India, investment in INR has been permitted. An FDI Act will be enacted in the 11<sup>th</sup> FYP</li> <li>❖ Since the adoption of the Foreign Direct Policy and Economic Development Policy in 2010, a total of 13 projects have been approved with a total value of over Nu. 19 billion. The total employment generated by FDI companies is 2041 Bhutanese and 274 expatriates</li> </ul>
6	All efforts will be made to protect intellectual property rights such as patents, copyrights and trademarks. This will also cover the protection of indigenous knowledge, expertise and arts and crafts from foreign ownership or control.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A coherent and comprehensive IP Policy is currently in the process of formulation for the recognition and protection of Intellectual Property Rights</li> <li>❖ A copyright registry for voluntary deposit and registration of copyright and related rights works has been established</li> <li>❖ A registration system for patents has been established to provide inventors an effective means to protect and promote their inventions</li> <li>❖ A registration system for industrial designs has been established. This operationalisation of the registration is intended to encourage local designers to file application for industrial design and commercially exploit their industrial designs</li> </ul>
7	Private sector and foreign direct investment participation in the development and management of the industrial estates shall be promoted.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Development and management of industrial estates is in the priority list of activities of FDI Policy 2010. DHI-Infra has undertaken numerous promotional activities to invite foreign investors to participate in this activity. They have recently floated global tender for the same</li> </ul>
8	We will expedite the establishment of a <i>dry port</i> in Phuentsholing to provide a destination for all goods or cargo entering or exiting the country. The possibility of establishing dry ports at Gelephu and other commercial cities along the southern border shall also be studied and pursued where feasible.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Approved the relocation of site for proposed dry port from Phuentsholing to Toribari, Pasakha in June 2009. The area earmarked for dry port in Phuentsholing will be used for creating storage for goods in transit with full customs facilities (mini dry port). The design and modalities are being developed</li> <li>❖ The acquisition of land in Toribari for the establishment of dry port is awaiting the railway line alignment</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The land owners affected by the mini dry port in Phuentsholing have been compensated</li> <li>❖ National Land Commission's approval for the land registration to carry out the work is awaited</li> <li>❖ During the ADB South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) committee meeting on Trade Facilitation held on October, 2011 at Bangkok, ADB in principle agreed to fund the establishment of Mini Dry Port in Phuentsholing</li> </ul>
9	A separate department shall be set up in the concerned Ministry with the specific mandate for promoting and supporting the establishment of cottage and small industries.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Department of Cottage and Small Industries was established in 2010 under the Ministry of Economic Affairs</li> </ul>
10	We are committed to starting the construction of several mega projects within the next 5 years, towards increasing the power generation level to 10,000 MWs by 2020 (within twelve years).	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 3 hydro-electric projects are under construction and others are at various stages of agreement</li> <li>❖ When Punatsangchu I and II, and Mangdechu are commissioned in 2016/17, additional annual revenue of about 33 billion in Indian Rupee shall flow into the country</li> <li>❖ And when all the additional 10,800 MW is realised in 2020, the country's GDP at current prices would have grown by 192 times from Nu. 95.06 billion in 2012 to Nu. 227 billion in 2020, and GDP per capita would have increased from \$ 2,986 in 2011 to \$ 7,000 in 2020, making Bhutan a truly middle income country</li> </ul>
11	We shall broaden opportunities and participation in the tourism sector. Policies to develop, promote and market new products will be drawn up.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 105,414 tourists arrived in 2012, exceeding the target of 100,000 by end of 2012</li> <li>❖ Tourist processes have been simplified to increase convenience e.g. credit card facilities, online visa, waiver of special permit for heritage sites and online ticket booking</li> <li>❖ Community-based tourism in Zhemgang, Haa and Bumthang has been initiated</li> </ul>



Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
12	Promote Bhutan as an ideal destination for MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions).	✓			❖ Bhutan is today hosting numerous international conferences, seminars and meetings greatly benefitting the local hospitality industry
13	An appropriate convention centre of international standards shall be built in Thimphu during the 10 <sup>th</sup> five year plan and elsewhere thereafter.		✓		❖ The DHI has been given full responsibility to build an international convention centre and it is pursuing the matter actively
14	Old heritage sites such as <i>Drugyel Dzong</i> , <i>Drapham Dzong</i> and <i>Zhongkhar Dzong</i> , will be conserved and protected as popular tourist sites. All such sites that require attention and protection will be identified and policies for the conservation, protection and use of such sites will be formulated.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The first phase of the Drapham Dzong Archaeology completed</li> <li>❖ The second phase was started with an educational workshop on archaeology for all the cultural officers of twenty Dzongkhags</li> <li>❖ The renovation of Semtokha Dzong was completed and it is now established as the Central Institute of Monastic Arts</li> <li>❖ The new Tsirang Dzong and Chukha Dzong were completed and inaugurated. The work on new Pema Gatsel Dzong has been started</li> <li>❖ Renovation and development of Dechenphug Lhakhang complex, Pangrizampa Astrology School, Wangditse Lhakhang, Dechenphodrang Monastery have been completed. The Trongsa Ta Dzong was renovated and developed as the Tower of Trongsa Museum as a tribute to the Centenary Celebration of our Beloved Monarchs</li> <li>❖ Renovation and development of Paro, Lhuentse and Dagana Dzongs have been started and are at various stages of completion. It has been decided that the Wangdue Dzong will be rebuilt and restored to its former glory after the tragic fire disaster in 2012</li> <li>❖ Mongar Dzong expanded with the construction of Kuenrey and administrative block</li> <li>❖ The Government supported the construction of the 169 feet tall Shakyamuni Buddha Statue in Thimphu, and the 148 feet tall Guru Nangsi Zilnon Statue at Tangmachu, Lhuentse</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
15	In addition to the normal <i>tshechus</i> , other festivals shall be instituted to promote cultural growth and tourism in various parts of the country as in the case of <i>Puna Tshechu</i> and <i>Dechenphu tshechu</i> with entirely new dance repertoires.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Dochula Druk Wangyel Tshechu, under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, was inaugurated on 13 December 2011 on the grounds of the Druk Wangyel Lhakhang. Dochula dances are today also performed during annual tshechus in Thimphu and Punakha</li> <li>❖ The Punakha Tshechu has been started to commemorate and celebrate the life and legacy of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel;</li> <li>❖ The National Museum of Bhutan, Paro organised a permanent display to showcase the different types of mask dances practiced around the country. Further, the National Museum in collaboration with the Royal Academy for Performing Arts (RAPA) have inventoried and documented different mask dances, folklores and songs that are performed in the country. The graduates from RAPA are being deployed in the different institutions and schools across the country as cultural instructors</li> </ul>
16	In order to spread the benefits of tourism among all Dzongkhags, special support shall be extended to encourage community participation in providing food and lodge, transport, porter and guide services in rural areas. Special support shall be given to promote tourism in eastern and southern Bhutan and in this regard, both Sarpang and Samdrup Jongkhar shall be included as entry and exit points for tourists. New and exotic destinations in the country shall be explored and opened to tourism.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Negative list was approved and road permit system waived off</li> <li>❖ Started community based tourism in traditional villages in Zhemgang, Haa and Bumthang</li> <li>❖ Home stays/Farm stays were introduced in Haa, Trashiyangtse, Bumthang (Nasiphel and Ura), Gasa and Phobjikha besides starting a community lodge in Zhemgang (Dangkar)</li> <li>❖ Introduced tourism in Merak and Sakten, Trashigang</li> <li>❖ Developed road-side amenities</li> <li>❖ Destination marketing, and development/promotion of new products undertaken</li> <li>❖ Improvement of overall tourism governance undertaken</li> </ul>

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17	We will explore and strategise to exploit emerging opportunities and promote and position Bhutan as a regional player in the fields of education, health, finance and banking, ICT, construction and consultancy, among others.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ An Economic Development Policy 2010 and the FDI Policy 2010 were adopted</li> <li>❖ Investment road-shows organized within the region and in Europe. Several business delegations from Thailand, EU and South Korea were invited to the country to explore investment and economic opportunities</li> <li>❖ The draft National Education Policy outlines provisions to facilitate the establishment of private schools, both local and international</li> <li>❖ Similarly, the Tertiary Education Policy have provisions to encourage the establishment of both local and international institutions at the tertiary level</li> <li>❖ The Education City Project has been approved and agreement with the concessionaire successfully concluded. Project infrastructure development has commenced</li> <li>❖ A study has been carried out to establish a tertiary level super-specialised hospital in Bhutan through Foreign Direct Investments but it was found unfeasible in the medium term</li> <li>❖ Modalities and frameworks have been developed for establishment of high-end medical diagnostic, treatment facilities and training centers through private sector engagement in the country</li> <li>❖ <i>Sowarigpa</i> (traditional medicine) spa and wellness services have been introduced in the country</li> <li>❖ Bhutan's first IT Park has been established. Eight local IT companies have been incubated and are operating from the IT Park. One IT company has partnered with a UK-based technology firm to house the data center. Efforts are on to invite reputed international IT firms to operate from the IT Park</li> </ul>

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18	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based service industries including telecommunication facilities, shall be aggressively promoted through the establishment of Information Technology (IT) parks and various fiscal incentives.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Thimphu Tech Park Project as one of the key component to drive the private sector growth was inaugurated on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011. Bhutan's first innovation and technology center - Bhutan Innovation and Technology Center (BITC) - comprising a business incubation center, a shared technology center, and a Tier II data center were launched on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Currently, eight local companies have started operation as incubates. In terms of IT/ITES skills development, foreign companies like Infosys, Wipro and Genpact along with local institutes trained 1,030 Bhutanese and employed 778 within and outside Bhutan</li> </ul>
19	Mining operations shall be subjected to the highest environmental standards including afforestation and soil conservation measures.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Mineral Development Policy (MDP) has been drafted integrating social and environmental concerns. The policy is in the final stage of approval</li> <li>❖ The restoration of closed mines and quarries are in progress, under strict monitoring by the Department of Geology and Mines (DGM). Mining operators who do not respond to the directives of the department are being dealt with as per law</li> <li>❖ With strict enforcement of the provisions of the Mines and Minerals Management Act 1995 and its regulations, the DGM has brought about a lot of improvement in the process for allocating mines/quarries and the ways mining activities are carried out in the country</li> </ul>
20	'Brand Bhutan' will be promoted as products that are clean, healthy and environmentally friendly.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Green Schools for Green Bhutan</li> <li>❖ Launched "Seal of Origin" concept and "Made in Bhutan" seal in the crafts sector. The Tourism Council adopted <i>Bhutan: Happiness is a Place</i> as its slogan to promote tourism</li> <li>❖ Tourist customer satisfaction increased from 70% to 86%</li> <li>❖ Bhutan is a finalist for the World Travel and Tourism Council's (WTTC) prestigious "Destination Stewardship Award"</li> <li>❖ Bhutan has been named as Top 5 places to visit by the New York Times</li> </ul>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Bhutan selected as the finalist for “Top Country 2009” award instituted by Wanderlust Travel magazine</li> <li>❖ Bhutan Received the award of “Most Refreshing Tour” in 25th ITE (International Travel Expo) Hongkong in June 2011</li> </ul>
21	Appropriate policies to improve the safety and quality, as well as the expansion of public transport services will be initiated.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Improved the quality, reliability and safety of public transport buses with deployment of smaller and more comfortable buses</li> <li>❖ For the new Thimphu City Bus Terminal, the Thimphu Thromde is looking at two locations. The IFC has also been requested for support</li> <li>❖ Bus terminal works started in Trashigang and Samdrupjonkhar. Bus terminal plan at Paro shelved due to re-allotment of the land identified earlier to another agency</li> <li>❖ Roadside amenities for travellers have been initiated on a small scale by the Tourism Council and Department of Roads</li> <li>❖ Sales tax for import of passenger buses exempted</li> </ul>
22	Measures to enhance corporate responsibility by way of improved passenger insurance and security will also be introduced.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Measures for passenger insurance and security being implemented with RICB through additional premium</li> </ul>
23	The import and use of eco-friendly means of conveyances such as hybrid cars and electric buses in urban centres and ropeways in remote areas will be supported.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ This has been included as part of the Economic Development Policy 2010. Even as there has been a steady increase in the number of electric/battery passenger cars, to encourage more people to switch over to this mode, import of eco-friendly cars are exempted from tax/import duty. Study on the best eco-friendly mass urban transport has been completed and the services will soon be introduced in Thimphu. Ropeway study included in the 11<sup>th</sup> plan</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
24	Operators of public transportation services such as buses and taxis shall be provided with credit guarantees and access to soft loan facilities for replacing old vehicles with newer, more efficient, reliable and eco-friendly ones.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ On non-profitable routes, public transport operators are provided interest subsidy (soft loans) from the government on purchase of public transport vehicles</li> <li>❖ For eco-friendly vehicles, tax exemptions are provided</li> <li>❖ Tax exemptions are granted on the purchase of buses used by passenger transport entities</li> </ul>
25	Initiative shall be taken to widen and strengthen all the national highways and the Dzongkhag roads. The second east-west highway connecting Jomotsangkha (Daifam) to Sibsoo will receive priority consideration for both economic and security reasons.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ As of June 2012, completed 1,850 km of road improvement comprising Primary National Highways, Secondary National Highways and Dzongkhag roads (including widening at curves and in narrow road sections)</li> <li>❖ Improved road pavement completed on selected stretches on Thimphu-Wangdue highway (70 km), Gelephu-Wangdue highway (191 km) and Gelephu-Trongsang highway (108 km)</li> <li>❖ Road resurfacing of over 705.54 km completed out of the targeted 1,000 km</li> <li>❖ Highest priority accorded to the construction of the Southern East-West highway (SEWH). About 193 km of the SEWH - Samtse-Phuentsholing road (60 km), Samdrupcholing-Samrang road (24.15 km), Panbang-Nganglam road (55.5 km), Manitar-Raidak road (35 km) and Raidak-Lhamoizingkha road (18 km) - are currently under construction. Construction of Dewathang-Nganglam road (74.5 km) is included for study under ADB assistance</li> </ul>
26	We shall expedite the building of new airports and introduce aviation services including light aircraft in eastern, central and southern Bhutan.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Three domestic airports - one each in the east, center and south - have been established. A private airline (Tashi-Air/Bhutan Airline) has been licensed to provide domestic air service together with Drukair</li> </ul>
27	Helicopter services for official, business and emergency purposes shall be considered while being mindful of the need to maintain the high value of tranquillity and silence for which Bhutan is much appreciated.			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Applications from private sector to introduce helicopter services were later dropped due to commercial viability, high costs and safety concerns</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
28	In order to reduce transportation costs for the private sector and to facilitate trade with India and third countries, the establishment of railway links with India will be expedited.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The feasibility study has been undertaken</li> <li>❖ The railway link has been delayed due to land issues on the Indian side. The RGOB is still pursuing the matter with the Government of India</li> </ul>
29	We will explore markets for our goods and services by developing trade relations within and outside the region.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Opened new trade routes with India and Bangladesh</li> </ul>
30	Mechanisms will be established to increase the supply of timber, sand and stones.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Drafted a new Rural Timber Subsidy Policy</li> <li>❖ Issued the guidelines for harvesting of timber from private forests</li> <li>❖ Introduced online application system</li> <li>❖ Devolved and decentralised the authority to ranger level</li> <li>❖ NRDCL ensures supply flow of timber, sand and stones at reasonable rates.</li> </ul>
31	A clear and consistent approach will be adopted for land acquisition which will include various options such as outright purchase at market rates or providing substitute land, based again on market values or the option of holding stakes in projects for which land is acquired. Similarly, landowners, whose lands have been designated as <i>no construction zones</i> , will be compensated adequately. To these ends, law and regulations pertaining to land use and classification pattern shall be reviewed and reforms proposed, if necessary.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Draft Land Amendment Act pending in Parliament</li> <li>❖ Land acquisition has been streamlined</li> <li>❖ Revised Property Assessment and Valuation Agency (PAVA)</li> </ul>
32	Low or no taxes shall be imposed on essential commodities and the current nominal rural tax rates shall be maintained.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Zero tax rates for essential commodities</li> <li>❖ No increase in rural tax rates</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
33	Budget deficits shall continue to be maintained within sustainable limits and acceptable thresholds. Public debt shall be contracted only for socio-economically productive investment purposes so that, as enshrined in the Constitution, future generations are not punished for our indiscretions. A formalised strategy for public debt management will be formulated covering national debt strategy, governance and institutional issues. The debt strategy will be published to increase transparency, and to improve public awareness of debt management activities.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The budget deficit is projected at 0.2% of GDP on an average in the 10<sup>th</sup> FYP, which is low and at sustainable level</li> <li>❖ Budget debts stand at 16.4% of GDP with hydropower debts at 45.3% and central bank at 6% of GDP as of December 2012 end</li> <li>❖ All budgetary debts have been contracted for socially useful projects and at very low cost from international development financial institutions. Debts are all used for capital expenditures only which have future returns</li> <li>❖ Hydropower debts have been contracted at interest rates viable for the projects to benefit the future generation</li> <li>❖ Continuous assessment of government debt (stock and flow) is being carried out by the Ministry of Finance (MoF). Additionally debt sustainability is assessed jointly by the IMF and World Bank</li> <li>❖ Medium Term Debt Strategy has been prepared with an action plan to implement the strategy</li> <li>❖ Public debt management strategy is laid down in Public Finance Act, 2007. As it is in the form of law which is a public document, the debt reports and assessment are periodically reported to the government</li> </ul>
34	We will support the efforts of the RMA in ensuring price stability, as price inflation tends to hurt the poor most. We will review and revise the Royal Monetary Authority Act to give it the necessary institutional independence for effectively pursuing its mandates.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The government raised taxes and cut expenditures in support of the RMA's effort</li> <li>❖ A new RMA Act was legislated conferring independence to the RMA</li> </ul>



Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
35	Targeted fiscal incentives for priority sectors and specific regions will be provided for hydropower, tourism, ICT, other core industries, and rural based industries to stimulate regionally balanced economic development. However tax shelter industries and activities seeking only to profit from and exploit tax and duty differentials will be discouraged.	✓			❖ Introduced Fiscal Incentives 2010 which provides comprehensive tax and non-tax incentives that are targeted to promote all the said priority sectors
36	In order to ensure equity in the tax system and to promote small and cottage enterprises, the integration of the business income tax with the personal income tax will be examined.	✓			❖ Upon examination, PIT and BIT have been found to be two different concepts, and the matter was not pursued
37	The corporate income tax system shall also be reviewed to encourage investment and corporatisation, and the existing customs and sales tax rates will be harmonised to facilitate trade and commerce.	✓			❖ The corporate income rates were reviewed and found appropriate as compared to other countries. Rather than considering rate changes, fiscal incentives were introduced to encourage investments and corporatisation
38	Customs duty and sales tax exemptions will be provided for the import of raw materials and capital goods for targeted industries and those that export to convertible currency markets.	✓			❖ This has been done
39	Bilateral and multilateral agreements and treaties for the avoidance of double taxation shall be negotiated with strategic trading as well as development partners.	✓			❖ Agreement with India, Bhutan's main trading partner, has been negotiated and signed

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
40	The financial sector shall be progressively liberalised to encourage both domestic and foreign competition in financial services, product diversification and access to other sources of finance. The private sector will be encouraged to become the driving force in the development of the financial sector.	✓			❖ Three new banks and one insurance company have entered the market, inducing competition, product diversification and improving financial services
41	Legislative reforms aimed at promoting good corporate governance will be introduced to create a competitive, efficient, stable and balanced financial and banking system.	✓			❖ The Financial Institutions Act was scrapped and instead introduced the Financial Services Act, 2011, bringing about elements of good corporate governance and greater competition in the Financial Institutions
42	The foreign exchange regime will be thoroughly reviewed and, where possible, liberalised to ensure that opportunities and entrepreneurship are not restricted or stifled.	✓			❖ Foreign exchange rules have been reviewed and revised to the extent possible without jeopardising the reserve situation. It has been liberalised especially where FDI profits are concerned
43	A market-based approach to fund the domestic resource gap will be introduced to facilitate the development of financial markets.	✓			❖ The government is increasingly resorting to use of Treasury Bills for its cash management purpose and also help in developing capital market
44	Steps will also be taken to minimise impediments to the development of a capital market for equity and corporate bonds and provide instruments suitable for private investments. Credit schemes for industrial development will be supported and export oriented industries will be promoted by facilitating export credit programmes and also providing business and export promotional services and facilities.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Government Treasury Bills and Bonds have been issued</li> <li>❖ Listing rules at the RSEB have been revised and also exchange system fully automated enabling easy trading in shares (equities)</li> <li>❖ Corporations have been enabled to issue corporate bonds. RICB, Druk PNB and Druk Air have issued bonds</li> <li>❖ All financial institutions have industrial credit schemes and export credit facilities</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
45	Positioning and promoting Bhutan as an excellent centre for international banking and financial services.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Undertook a study and found the prerequisites for a financial centre could be built up only over a much longer-term. Nevertheless, the prerequisite infrastructures were part of the developments and as and when they got built, Bhutan would become more prepared to develop into a financial centre. Foreign financial institutions such as the Punjab National Bank have come in, contributing to the build-up of financial centre infrastructure. The IFC has invested in BNB which will bring greater international exposure. SAARC Development Fund Secretariat has been established</li> </ul>
46	Measures will be adopted to make farm and rural life more productive, profitable, comfortable and attractive.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Drafted National Food and Nutrition Security Policy</li> <li>❖ Revised National Irrigation Policy</li> <li>❖ Developed Human Wildlife Management Strategy</li> <li>❖ Adopted One Gewog Three Products (OGTP) program</li> <li>❖ Attracted FDIs</li> <li>❖ Established One-Stop Farmers' Shop concept</li> <li>❖ Established hotline services</li> <li>❖ Formed Farmers' Groups and Cooperatives</li> <li>❖ Distributed farm machineries to the Farmers Groups and Cooperatives at subsidized rates</li> <li>❖ About 58% of the rural households connected by farm roads and additional 3,289.8 km of farm roads constructed</li> <li>❖ Established micro-enterprises in agriculture, livestock and forestry</li> <li>❖ Minister took regular visits to remote villages and communities to understand field realities and obtain first-hand information on the issues and challenges confronting the daily lives of the rural communities and to understand the development coverage</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
47	The local governments shall receive priority and necessary support for further raising resources, and their technical and administrative capacities.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Local governments receive all necessary financial support through the annual budget allocation. They have the necessary powers to raise further resources on their own</li> <li>❖ Established new Department of Local Governance in 2009 to foster successful implantation of democratic governance system in local governments</li> <li>❖ Framed the Rules and Regulations for LG Act 2009 based on which the first local government elections were held</li> <li>❖ Held annual Dzongdags' Conference and DT and GT Chairpersons' Conference</li> <li>❖ Provided a series of trainings and study visits that enhanced the capacity of local government functionaries</li> <li>❖ Revised the DSA for Gups to Nu. 500 per day</li> <li>❖ All 205 Gewogs now have one Gewog Administrative Officer each</li> <li>❖ Helpline process introduced for Local Governments</li> <li>❖ Community Contract Protocol initiated to encourage local community to assume the ownership of project outputs valued up to Nu. 1.5 million</li> </ul>
48	We therefore shall link every Gewog with motorable roads or other more efficient means of access in five years even if it comes at the cost of other programmes.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 201 out of 205 gewogs have been connected with roads except Laya, Lunana, Soe, and Lingzhi gewogs. Walking distance to Soe and Lingzhi have been reduced to 1 day and 2 days respectively from 3 days and 4 days. As for Lunana, all weather mule tracks is under construction along Phochu. Laya road is under construction. Number of gewogs accessible by road at the beginning of 10FYP was 149</li> <li>❖ Under <b>Motorable Road to Every Gewog Centre</b> (not in the manifesto), 36 out of the 49 Gewogs which remained to be connected at the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> FYP have been connected and works on the remaining 13 gewogs have reached advanced stage and progressing well</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
49	We commit ourselves to illuminating every village with electric lights by the end of the 10 <sup>th</sup> five year plan.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Minimum Programme - Under <b>Electricity for Every Home</b>, 33,848 households have been electrified in the 10th FYP. The total electrified households is 78,539 or 88.6% of the total. Remaining to be electrified:10,103 households. Except for the communities under Lauri and Serthig gewogs which will receive electricity by end of 2013, all the remaining communities will be electrified within the plan period as the resources have been fully mobilized and works are underway</li> </ul>
50	In order to improve power security in all the Dzongkhags, the national power grid project shall be completed in the 10 <sup>th</sup> five year plan, to enable power to flow from surplus to deficit areas.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ East-West grid interconnection and substation at Jigmeling will be completed and commissioned by the end of the year</li> </ul>
51	No community must thirst or ail for want of water. We will make every effort to ensure that everyone has access to safe and convenient drinking water within our term of five years.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Minimum programme – Under the <b>Safe Drinking Water Supply for Every Home</b>, 1,182 rural water supply schemes have been constructed against the target of 1,004, thus over achieving the target at 117%</li> <li>❖ The MDG target of reducing those without access to safe drinking water by half has been achieved well in advance</li> <li>❖ Alternative technologies in the form of rainwater harvesting system (Mongar, Pema Gatshel, Paro, Trongsa, Lhuntse), and pumping water supply (Pema Gatshel, Samtse, Chukha) were implemented. Technology such as bio-sand filtration was also implemented to ensure safety of supplied water</li> <li>❖ Developed tools and protocols for water quality testing in both urban and rural areas to avert water-borne diseases and enable access to clean and safe drinking water throughout the country</li> </ul>
52	Irrigation is the life blood of farmers and is essential for ensuring the productivity of land and stability of yield. The rehabilitation of existing irrigation channels and augmenting this network will be placed high on the agenda.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Revised National Irrigation Policy</li> <li>❖ Renovated and constructed 575 kms of irrigation channels with budget of Nu. 470 million. This has contributed to an annual increase of 1,200 acres of land under assured irrigation</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Developed and implemented several schemes of water harvesting technologies</li> <li>❖ The productivity of the rice has increased from 2.64 MT/hectare (2009) to 3.38 MT/hectare</li> </ul>
53	Connect every Gewog with telecommunication services, including cellular phones and endeavour to go beyond it to connect every community. A Gewog communication centre shall be established in every Gewog in order to bridge the digital and information divide.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Minimum Programme - Under the goal of <b>Mobile Phone Connectivity for Every Community</b>, 100% achievement</li> <li>❖ As of end December 2012, there are 560,890 mobile phone users</li> <li>❖ Established 185 community centres to provide online public services to rural communities. Each centre is equipped with 2-3 computers, printer, facsimile machine, scanner, digital camera and photocopiers</li> <li>❖ Where possible internet connection has been provided</li> </ul>
54	Bhutan Development Finance Corporation Limited (BDFC) will be strengthened and supported to improve the provision of credit to farmers. The terms of credit such as interest rates, collateral requirements etc., shall be rationalised to enhance access to credit for the neediest, without compromising on the viability of the financial institution. The BDFC shall, in addition to providing credit, also assume the role of providing general banking services in the rural areas, such as savings and current accounts, transferring funds and encashing cheques.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ BDFC has been converted to a full commercial bank so as to help the rural clients. The management as well as the board has been changed. Many additional branches have been opened</li> <li>❖ An additional capital of Nu. 100 million has been made available. Another USD 3 million being provided for enhancing rural credit</li> <li>❖ The MoF continues to support the BDFC's objective of providing financial services to the rural people. It has been provided corporate tax exemption to facilitate the provision of rural financial services. Interest rates have not been high and the collateral requirements are nominal</li> <li>❖ The BDFC has been converted into a bank and now provides general banking services in several areas. Access to credit in the rural areas has been enhanced by the BDFC with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Farmers outreach banking : It is like a mini bank brought to the field with a whole lot of banking services of BDBL to the rural people. During the Farmer's Outreach Banking, the following activities are carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Loan intake/ loan documentation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project site visit</li> <li>✓ Loan approval and disbursement</li> <li>✓ Loans and Savings collection</li> <li>✓ Savings withdrawals</li> <li>✓ Project supervision and monitoring and</li> <li>✓ Other banking related activities</li> </ul> <p>➤ Seasonal loans for acquiring agriculture inputs such as improved seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, small hand tools and implements, pesticides, fungicides, etc.</p>
55	Special attention will be paid to promote and ensure the continuation of the high rate of participation of women in rural credit schemes.	✓			<p>❖ Of the total 32,078 borrowers, BDFC financed 12,129 women borrowers constituting 38%. The following strategies were adopted to promote women borrowers: <i>(figures as of July 31, 2012)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Promoted Vegetable Vendor product (under group model) designed mainly for the women client</li> <li>➤ Financial and entrepreneurial skill development which is nation-wide and majority of the beneficiaries are women</li> <li>➤ Start-up enterprise mainly focusing on the women UNCDF project</li> <li>➤ Farmer exposure trip organised by BDBL and women on board</li> <li>➤ Micro-enterprise product designed with focus on women</li> <li>➤ Inter-regional exposure trip organised for clients and women on board</li> <li>➤ Collaboration with BAOWE</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
56	One-stop farmer service (OSFS) centres shall be established at each Gewog RNR centre for availing information, procurement of inputs like farm machinery and equipment, processing of credit, plant protection and veterinary services. These centres will provide agricultural extension services, market information, legal and financial advisory services, certification and labelling services for farm products, all from a single outlet using the 'one door, many services' concept. These will be placed alongside the Gewog information centres.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Established 16 OSFS. The establishment of OSFS is demand-based from interested farmers</li> <li>❖ Identified 21 different services under the G2C initiative to achieve turnaround time by 70% in terms of service deliveries</li> </ul>
57	Farm machinery and equipment shall be made more available with rural-based support servicing.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Identified two private dealers for sales and procurement of farm machinery</li> <li>❖ Annually supplied on average 100 numbers of power tillers both by the government and the private, as of June 2010.n. At present Bhutan has more than 800 power tillers distributed across the country</li> <li>❖ Trained over 1,500 extension agents and key farmers on maintenance and operations of farm machineries</li> <li>❖ Established 3 farmers' service support unit/community level gewog machinery centres and 2 rural workshops</li> <li>❖ Initiated mobile farm machinery maintenance services</li> </ul>
58	Bhutan shall be progressively promoted as a country specialising in organic food. It is our intention that the country itself will ultimately become an organic brand.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Created enabling environment to establish organic agriculture in Bhutan through development of policies and interventions</li> <li>❖ Developed National Organic Standards for certifications</li> <li>❖ Development of organic agriculture master plan in progress/process</li> <li>❖ Developed organic training manual</li> <li>❖ Carried out Research and Development (R&amp;D) in organic agriculture and endorsed Bhutan Natural brand</li> </ul>



Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Promotion of organic produce from Bhutan in international market</li> <li>❖ Identified over 15,000 acres as potential organic farming (5,500 acres per annum)</li> <li>❖ Brought under the organic/natural farming 38,558 acres, and under wild collection 3,043 acres</li> <li>❖ Organic farming under Samdrup Jongkhar Initiative in progress</li> </ul>
59	We will promote the formation of cooperatives and association of farmers to achieve economies of scale for production and marketing of commodities based on local comparative advantages and opportunities.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Cooperative (Amendment) Act of Bhutan amended</li> <li>❖ Over 25 registered cooperatives formed</li> <li>❖ Several informal farmers groups formed for various sub-sector (Livestock-100 groups, Agriculture 57 and Forestry over 439 Community Forestry groups, NWFP 6, poultry 42) established</li> <li>❖ A total of 5,672 employments were created from various contract farming, cooperatives and farmers groups</li> </ul>
60	We will also undertake rural enterprise and skill development programmes.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rural development Training Centre is one of the main agencies to effectively deliver/undertake the rural enterprises and skill development programme through various training programmes such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Agricultural skills training programmes</li> <li>➤ Farm Management Programme, Group Management Programmes</li> <li>➤ Youth Agriculture Awareness Programmes</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ As of now, about 900 farmers were trained on various aspects of the rural enterprise and skill development programmes</li> <li>❖ Established Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Crafts</li> <li>❖ Village skills imparted on a wide range of occupational skills</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
61	We will accord the highest priority to search for solutions to this problem (people-wildlife conflict) and measures to prevent encroachment and destruction. Wildlife legislation and conflict resolution policies will be thoroughly reviewed. Government compensation will be considered where major damage or losses to yield have occurred. Crop insurance possibilities, including provision of relief fund during crop failure shall also be explored.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Revised National Forest Policy</li> <li>❖ Developed Bhutan National Human Wildlife Conflicts Management Strategy</li> <li>❖ Established Human Wildlife Endowment Fund</li> <li>❖ Over 200 sound alarms and 60 solar fencing set up at strategic locations</li> </ul>
62	Transport subsidies for CGI sheets will be provided for remote farming communities to reduce demands upon the forests and to reduce costs for replacing shingles with longer lasting CGI sheets.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Promoted ICDP within the protected areas/national parks</li> <li>❖ CGI sheet were supplied to the households falling within the Protected Area System (PAS) such as JSWNP and Sakten Wildlife Sanctuary. 390 households in Sakten Wildlife Sanctuary benefited with CGI sheet worth Nu. 8.1 million</li> <li>❖ Further, the RMNP, BWS and WCP provided CGI sheets worth Nu. 2.2 million to three community <i>Lhakhangs</i> and a community school</li> <li>❖ Promoted the construction of houses using bamboo as an alternative timber</li> <li>❖ CGI sheets have been provided to communities struck by natural disasters</li> <li>❖ CGI sheets have also been provided under CDG (Constituency Development Grant) schemes</li> </ul>
63	We will reach out to the poorest of the poor by initiating a national programme to identify communities and individuals living below the poverty line in both rural and urban regions and implement sustainable interventions to improve their wellbeing. We will undertake all efforts to strengthen vocational training to equip such resource poor people with skills for the labour market.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Remote Rural Communities Development Project worth USD 9.52 million have been identified for 26 gewogs in 6 Dzongkhags of Samtse, Haa, Dagana, Chukha, Wangdue and Trongsa</li> <li>❖ Rural livelihood project worth Euro 2.00 million is being implemented in the poorest communities of Zhemgang and Sarpang</li> <li>❖ Market Access and Growth Intensification Project (MAGIP) funded by IFAD worth USD. 11.49 million under implementation in poor communities of 6 eastern Dzongkhags</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sustainable Financing for Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resources Management in High Altitude Northern landscape Areas of Bhutan, through support of Global Environment Facility (GEF) worth USD.4.5 have been initiated, with special focus on the communities of northern areas of Bhutan</li> <li>❖ Horticulture Research Development Project funded by JICA worth USD 5 million is implemented in Mongar, Lhuntse, Trashigang, Trashiyangtse, Pemagatshel, Trongsa and Zhemgang focusing on increasing the production of cash crops</li> <li>❖ The World Bank-funded project titled Decentralised Rural Development Project implemented in Zhemgang, Dagana, Trongsa, Tsirang, Chukha, and Wangdue Phodrang</li> </ul>
64	We will support the resettlement of communities from ecologically unstable and unsustainable areas.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Supported as and when required in the re-settlement programmes, specially to the <i>Gyalpoi Zimpon</i> Office and the National Land Commission Secretariat</li> </ul>
65	We will provide support for home ownership and ensure access to soft term lending and credit facilities with technical support and guidance.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Provided interest free Nu.250 million to the National Housing Development Corporation (NHDC)</li> <li>❖ The NHDC has prepared a proposal for home ownership and it has been allotted 30 acres of land in Thimphu</li> <li>❖ The NHDC has also drawn plans for Phuentsholing and Samdrupjongkhar.</li> </ul>
66	We will also provide priority to the socio-economic development of the semi-nomadic communities living along the northern borders, through subsidies, as and where needed so as to discourage migration and contribute towards safeguarding of the national boundary.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The \$4.5 million GEF funded project supports conservation activities and livelihood options of people living in the high altitude northern areas (HANAS) landscape</li> <li>❖ The US\$11.49 million IFAD-funded Market Growth and Intensification Project (MAGIP) covering the 6 eastern Dzongkhags has a sub-component on Agro-Tourism in Merak Sakteng. Similarly, improved stoves and solar lighting were provided in Haa</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					❖ The sustainable harvesting of Cordyceps is an important source of cash income
67	We will continue to provide free public health care and will tackle all health inequalities and work hard to ensure faster and better treatment for all.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Completed 350-bedded JDWNRH, 20-bedded Dagana District Hospital, and 150-bedded Mongar Referral Hospital</li> <li>❖ Constructions of 150-bedded Gelephu Referral Hospital , 40-bedded Samtse Hospital and Bio-Safety Level-III Public Health Laboratory started</li> <li>❖ Constructions of 23 BHU-IIs have been completed and 14 BHU-IIs are underway</li> <li>❖ All health centres in Southern Bhutan which were closed due to security concerns have been reopened, with some reconstructed/upgraded</li> <li>❖ To improve access to quality health services, established sub-posts for remote villages having population of 200-300, each sub-post manned by a health assistant and equipped with adequate and appropriate medical supplies</li> <li>❖ The Health Help Centre (HHC) represents a significant milestone in the development of health services in the country, particularly in areas of improving access, services equality, reaching the unreached and acceleration of the MDG achievements. It has enabled people to access the services of health professionals through a toll-free number within one hour at anytime from anywhere as long as there is telephone/mobile network</li> </ul>
68	We want to help people stay healthy with the support of a caring health care system. Emphasis will continue to be placed on prevention and early treatment. We will also focus on promoting healthier lifestyles and improving mental health.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Adopted The National Health Policy 2011 which shall set the agenda and provide general direction to achieve national and international health goals within the spirit of social justice and equity</li> <li>❖ At present, 11 Dzongkhags have at least 3 doctors each, 5 Dzongkhags have 2 doctors each and the remaining 4 have a single doctor each. Given that the existing doctors are undergoing specialization abroad, the commitment to provide three doctors in all Dzongkhags hospitals will be realised in 2013</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To supplement the pool of doctors in the country, 12 to 14 doctors from Cuba will be recruited on contract from end of March 2013</li> <li>❖ Towards preventive health and in order to facilitate the annual medical check-up of students (who comprise about a fourth of the population) by providing a systematic institution of individual health records of all students from classes PP to XII, the Student Health Handbook has been developed and distributed to all the primary schools in the country. Henceforth all new annual PP enrolments will be issued with the handbook</li> <li>❖ Advocacy against lifestyle diseases including diabetes being carried out</li> </ul>
69	We will lower infant and maternal mortality by placing the highest priority on maternal, child and reproductive health care.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The current estimate is 146 (about more than 40% decrease from 2000 baseline) indicating that we are on track to achieve the target of 140 per 100,000 live births by 2015</li> <li>❖ Under-five mortality rates have been brought down to 61.5 per 1,000 live births from 84 in the year 2000. As such, the country remains comfortably on track to achieve the MDG target of reducing U5MR by two-thirds</li> <li>❖ Infant Mortality Rate reduced from 60.5 in 2000 to 40.1 per 1000 live births. It is highly probable that the country will achieve the MDG target of reducing IMR by two-thirds well ahead of time</li> </ul>
70	A regional medical college shall be established in Thimphu using the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital as the institutional base.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Established the University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (UMSB) through the University of Medical Sciences Act of Bhutan in 2012. In order to make this medical university a centre of excellence in the Region, UMSB is working closely with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Medical Council of India and also with the medical universities in other countries</li> </ul>
71	We shall also plan and work to promote Bhutan as a regional centre for medical tourism to serve the growing demand for high quality medical service in the subcontinent.			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Modalities and frameworks have been developed for establishment of high-end medical diagnostic, treatment facilities and training centres through private sector engagement in the country, but a study undertaken indicated that medical tourism is not feasible in the medium term</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
72	The country's indigenous medical knowledge and skills will be further strengthened through the establishment of highly specialised production units and services. The delivery of these services will be improved and expanded.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A total of 47 indigenous health units exist in the country today as part of an integrated health services delivery system. And popular Lang-dung and Lang-lum or herbal steaming services have been introduced in many hospitals and BHUs</li> <li>❖ The Lhengye Zhungtshog approved creation of a new Department of Traditional Medicine Services to help promote the traditional medicine services and Bhutan as a wellness and health tourism destination</li> <li>❖ The Pharmaceutical and Research Unit, which deals with production of traditional medicines, has been strengthened and works are afoot to corporatise the organization to generate further efficiency gains</li> </ul>
73	We will also encourage the setting up of wellness centres by linking the tourism sector with indigenous medical practices. These facilities will, in addition to generating income and employment, also contribute significantly to the improvement of the quality of health in our country.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sowa Rigpa (Traditional Medicine) spa and wellness services have been introduced in the country. Work is already underway to frame standards and guidelines for spa services, and a committee has been formed to look into promoting wellness services, both as part of treatment and as a tourism product</li> <li>❖ The curriculum for building therapy capacity has been developed to contribute significantly to the improvement of indigenous medical practices and quality of health. The infrastructure in the form of a huge building is being erected</li> </ul>
74	We will strengthen the public health care system at the local level so that the poor and disadvantaged have easier and convenient access to basic health care. This will allow more health care to be delivered locally and also help tackle any health care inequalities in the more deprived communities. Where Gewogs are too large and the population is unlikely to be efficiently served by the existing facilities, additional infrastructure other than Out Reach Clinics (ORCs) will be created.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ There are 428 ORCs with sheds, 89 ORCs without sheds, 169 BHU II, 15 BHU I and 31 Hospitals providing health care services across the country as of end 2011</li> <li>❖ Completed 350-bedded JDWNRH, 20-bedded Dagana District Hospital, and 150-bedded Mongar Referral Hospital</li> <li>❖ Constructions of 150-bedded Gelephu Referral Hospital, 40-bedded Samtse Hospital and Bio-Safety Level-III Public Health Laboratory started</li> <li>❖ Constructions of 23 BHU-IIs have been completed and 14 BHU-IIs are underway</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
	Every Dzongkhag hospital will have at least three doctors, one general physician and two specialists, including one gynaecologist.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To improve access to quality health services, established sub-posts for remote villages having a population of 200-300. A sub-post is manned by a health assistant and is equipped with adequate and appropriate medical supplies</li> <li>❖ At present, 11 Dzongkhags have at least 3 doctors each, 5 Dzongkhags have 2 doctors each and the remaining 4 have a single doctor each. Given that the existing doctors are undergoing specialization abroad, the commitment to provide three doctors in all Dzongkhags hospitals will be realised in 2013</li> <li>❖ Health Help Centre</li> </ul>
75	Existing facilities will be augmented, including ambulance service, which currently is woefully stretched and inadequate.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ All 20 Dzongkhag hospitals today have at least two functional ambulances. A fleet of 107 ambulances exists in the country today</li> <li>❖ There are 5 ambulances for regional hospitals, 2 for district hospitals and 1 for BHU-I</li> <li>❖ 15 ambulances stationed at strategic areas to facilitate transportation access during emergencies</li> <li>❖ To free ambulances from allied and administrative duties, the Ministry has provided one utility vehicle each to all hospitals and sourced three vehicles to be used as specialised Blood Bank Vans</li> </ul>
76	General physicians will be mandated to visit the ORCs and BHUs on a regular basis.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Gynaecologists are sent to hospitals to peripheral health facilities</li> <li>❖ General Physicians/Doctors in the district hospitals are required to visit BHUs, ORCs and institutions such as schools to carry out the clinical screening</li> </ul>
77	We are committed to continuing the present policy of providing free education and further enhancing its scope to help the poorest.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Continued to provide high priority to education and allocated Nu 9.489 million for the 10<sup>th</sup> FYP accounting for 12.89% of the total outlay, and adopted Educating for GNH as the guiding principle</li> <li>❖ Universal Primary Enrolment target achieved with the current figure standing at 99.6% overall, most Dzongkhags having recorded full enrollment. Constitutional mandate and MDGs as they relate to education fulfilled – gender parity achieved at Primary and Middle Secondary levels; need to do more work at tertiary level</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Walking distance drastically reduced by opening Extended Classrooms (ECRs), building more schools and introducing bussing, facilitating boarding where feasible. Drop-out rates reduced significantly and completion rates enhanced, school feeding widened, alternative curricula being piloted</li> <li>❖ There are presently 176,647 children in 553 schools representing about 25% of the total population</li> <li>❖ The government provided scholarship to 45% of class X graduates going to class XI in 2012, above the policy cut-off level of 40%</li> <li>❖ There is a jump of 40% in tertiary education enrolment in the last five years. There are today 10,328 young men and women pursuing university education with over 60% in the country and 40% in India and overseas</li> <li>❖ A total of 958 NFE centres has been established with 13,360 (2012) learners spread in 20 Dzongkhags</li> <li>❖ The Ministry of Education in recognition of the provision of Non-formal and Continuing Education programme has been recognised as a model for developing countries and received the 2012 UNESCO International Literacy Prize- also known as Confucius prize for literacy</li> </ul>
78	We will create an enabling environment to improve teacher morale and motivation through a system of recognition and reward.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Highly deserving teachers were presented awards in 2009, 2010 and 2012 during the National Day celebration. Apart from this, teachers are being continuously recognised for their dedicated service by the respective Dzongkhags. Such has also been rewarded during the Sherig Century celebration</li> <li>❖ Through the Performance Management System instituted in 2010, the top performing ten schools are acknowledged through media and teachers of those schools are given opportunities for further studies when scholarships are available</li> </ul>



Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Teaching allowance reinstated and professional development opportunities enhanced. INSET Master Plan prepared, HR Master Planning introduced; largest number of teachers pursuing further studies. Close to 100 Dzongkha Lopons sent on study tour to India; His Majesty conferred the National Order of Merit on 112 educators during the 2012 National Day, and on six teachers –retired and serving – in 2010</li> <li>❖ The education sector takes all HR related decisions through the HR Committees at both Dzongkhag and Ministry levels</li> <li>❖ All opportunities, vacancies and results are announced on the MoE website</li> </ul>
79	A teachers' training college, specifically designed to enhance teaching skills and more importantly subject knowledge, for in-service teachers shall be established in the east.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Centenary Institute of Education at Yonphula, Trashigang, established and started functioning since 21 January 2013 as an In-Service Education facility for continuous professional development of teachers, pending formal inauguration that will take place soon</li> </ul>
80	We will expand significantly, the number of teaching and support staff in our schools so that teachers can concentrate on their academic responsibilities without being burdened by additional non-academic responsibilities. We will also appoint professionally trained counsellors, physical education instructors, art and music teachers and IT instructors, laboratory and library assistants, to support the teachers.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 85 school sports instructors, 268 science lab and library assistants, 40 stores assistant, 122 multi-skilled personnel, 90 administrative assistants, and 40 store assistants have been appointed since 2009</li> <li>❖ 32 fulltime counselors have been appointed so far and placed in 12 higher and middle secondary schools. Nine counsellors are currently undergoing Post Graduate Diploma in Counselling at Samtse College of Education</li> <li>❖ At the moment, the art curriculum is being developed and schools are yet to have dedicated art and music teachers</li> <li>❖ Due to the overall shortage of teachers, both in terms of numbers and subjects taught, many teachers still continue to shoulder multiple responsibilities</li> </ul>
81	Reducing class size, improving teacher-pupil ratios and increasing support for teachers, particularly on alternative strategies to improve discipline in the classroom will be some of the options to consider.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The teacher strength has increased significantly from only 6,183 trainees in 2009 to over 10,000 including those in colleges and NFE instructors. The teacher-student ratio today stands at 1:25</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
82	Use of ICT including e-learning and self learning will be popularised and promoted. We will include ICT as an important subject in schools to build the necessary foundations for a knowledge-based society that Bhutan must be. We will enhance the use of information technology as a powerful means of learning (Point 86 merged here)	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Under Chiphen Rigpel Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Taking ICT to School: The objective is that any student passing from Bhutanese school system is computer literate, 50,000 students covered</li> <li>➤ Empowering the Teachers: 4,833 teachers trained</li> <li>➤ Tertiary Institutes: Four training centres established</li> <li>➤ Enhancing Employable Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provided training to 6,685 job seekers</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ In order to support ICT literacy among teachers and the use of ICT both as a tool and a resource, the project Empowering Teachers was initiated by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Bank of Bhutan. Through this scheme which provided loans for the purchase of computers at nominal interest rates, over 3,000 laptops and desktop computers were purchased by teachers and principals, making ICT accessible in the remotest corners and at various levels of schools</li> <li>❖ IT literacy, computer labs have been established in 168 secondary schools and an ICT curriculum has been introduced in all secondary schools</li> </ul>
83	A special policy decision shall be taken to promote Bhutan as a regional centre of excellence, especially in niche areas such as environment, Buddhist studies, culture, tourism and hospitality and build or strengthen appropriate institutional facilities for the purpose.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Gaeddu College of Business Studies inaugurated on 14 October 2008 in the office complex of the Tala Hydropower Corporation with intake of 263 new students, and transfer of 232 commerce and business students from Sherubtse College</li> <li>❖ Nu. 1.8 billion allocated for infrastructure development of 10 existing colleges under the Royal University of Bhutan to meet the intake target of 9,700 students by 2012</li> <li>❖ The relocation of the Institute of language and Culture Studies from Thimphu to Taktse, Trongsa, done</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The RUB established many specialised areas of studies under its colleges viz. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Centre for Buddhist Studies opened at the ILCS</li> <li>➤ The Centre for Population Studies opened at Sherubtse College</li> <li>➤ The Centre for University and Teaching opened at the Samtse College of Education</li> <li>➤ The Centre for Rural Development opened at the College of Natural Resources, Lobesa</li> <li>➤ The Centre for Energy opened at the College of Science and Technology at Rinchending, Phuentsholing</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ The RUB approved the following new courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ BA in History at Sherubtse College</li> <li>➤ BA in Population and Development Studies</li> <li>➤ BA in Bhutanese and Himalayan Studies</li> <li>➤ BA in Language and Literature</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ The MoE is also in the process of designing environmental studies courses for implementation by 2014</li> <li>❖ Education City Project</li> <li>❖ GNH Centre in Bumthang</li> </ul>
84	We will explore the possibilities of establishing additional tertiary institutions and colleges throughout the country.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Three private colleges (two in Paro Dzongkhag and one in Sarpang Dzongkhag) have been granted in-principle approval for their establishment</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
85	Personal attributes like volunteerism, dignity of labour, leadership, teamwork, extra-curricular activities and proficiency in life-skills will be inculcated and promoted. Subjects like social ethics and civic responsibility will be introduced beyond mere formality to ensure responsible, law abiding, honest and intelligently patriotic citizens (point no. 88 merged here)	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Educating for GNH programme is expected to integrate all these values into the school system among both teachers and students and through the schools, even among the communities</li> <li>❖ A manual for teachers on the Educating for GNH programme has been developed to help guide the teachers</li> <li>❖ To support this initiative which is making good progress, a Teachers' Training Manual on Educating for GNH has been developed, a core group of 70 facilitators (Training of Trainers), and 15 Core group trainers have been trained on facilitation skills, and roll-out workshops on Educating for GNH have been conducted covering more than 2,000 teachers in Bumthang, Haa, Phuntsholing, Dungkhag, Dagana, Tsirang, Wangdue, Thimphu, Thimthrom and Chhukha Dzongkhags. This March the ministry will train teachers from Gasa, Punakha and Paro, thus covering all Dzongkhags by 2013</li> <li>❖ A series of ToTs on life skills education (LSE) has been conducted in 18 Dzongkhags covering 6,568 teachers on LSE or 86.95% of teachers</li> <li>❖ In 2012, Law Clubs have been launched by HRH Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, the President of the Bhutan National Legal Institute, in 23 secondary schools spread over Paro, Punakha, Bumthang and Mongar. These clubs were launched with the objective to a) promote legal awareness among youth and the people of Bhutan, b) enhance the knowledge and interest of the Bhutanese youth in law, democratic principles, and the rule of law, c) encourage creative writing, research, debate, communication and analytic skills among the youth and d) get students interested in taking up Law as a career</li> </ul>
86	We will explore possibilities of special curriculum for religious institutions to give our novice monks a certain minimum standard of education in English, maths and computer skills.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Standards-based English curriculum being implemented across the formal system</li> <li>❖ English teachers deputed on contract to monastic institutions</li> <li>❖ Computer training covered by Chiphen Riggel project in all <i>shedras</i> and monastic schools</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
87	We will work on collecting social data that provide concise facts and figures to guide us in extending support to the needy sections and families across the country.	✓			❖ National Statistical Bureau (NSB) carried out Bhutan Living Standard Survey 2012
88	We will ensure that no child is left out of school because of financial constraints or socio-ethnic factors.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Universal School Enrolment is 99.6%</li> <li>❖ Most disadvantaged children identified and supported through different schemes</li> <li>❖ A wide network of Extended Classrooms, about 115, opened across the country to reach the unreached. It has been a critical strategy to enhance enrolment</li> <li>❖ Walking distance drastically reduced by opening ECRs, building more schools and introducing bussing, facilitating boarding where feasible. Drop-out rates reduced significantly and completion rates enhanced, school feeding widened, alternative curricula being piloted</li> <li>❖ The school feeding programme continues to provide food to students in remote and rural schools who have to walk long distances and come from economically disadvantaged families</li> <li>❖ His Majesty's Kidu fund also works with the Dzongkhags in identifying such needy children to support them through school</li> <li>❖ Under Her Majesty the Queen mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck's scholarship programme administered by the Ministry of Education, 60 students from socio-economically disadvantaged families are provided scholarships of Nu. 2,000/- annually to purchase basic requirements like uniforms and stationery</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
89	All efforts will be made to provide educational facilities within convenient walking distances for every rural community to ensure that children stay close to their parents. Reintroduction of the concept of <i>extended classroom</i> shall be considered. Alternative arrangements, where necessary, will be made, including stipends for boarding. Subsidised school bus facilities will also be introduced for students within an improved public transportation system to ensure that it is joyfully easy for children to get to school. We will promote Bhutan as a regional centre for high quality education.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A total of 114 extended classrooms have been established in order to bring educational facilities closer to the children</li> <li>❖ Where numbers do not warrant an ECR or a primary school, boarding provisions are made in the nearest boarding schools along with food and stipends</li> <li>❖ Subsidised bus services have been piloted in Thimphu and Paro Dzongkhags</li> <li>❖ In order to ensure that all school-age children are enrolled, Dzongkhags and schools in collaboration with local leaders have surveying their catchment areas and enrolling all out-of-school children</li> <li>❖ To enhance access to educational facilities, 5 additional special education resource centres were established and the enrolment of special needs children has tripled within this plan period</li> <li>❖ Further, trainings and workshops in special needs and inclusive education have been provided to teachers in special education resource schools</li> <li>❖ To ensure the highest standards in terms of quality of education, the Bhutan Board of Examinations has been delinked from the Ministry of Education and reformed as the Bhutan Council for School Examinations and Assessment (BCSEA)</li> <li>❖ Towards ensuring a holistic education and to infuse the national values and principles of GNH into the school system, the Educating for GNH programme has been initiated in all the schools with the theme “Green Schools for Green Bhutan” since 2010</li> <li>❖ To support this initiative which is making good progress, a Teachers’ Training Manual on Educating for GNH has been developed, a core group of 70 facilitators (Training of Trainers) have been trained on facilitation skills, and roll-out workshops on Educating for GNH have been conducted covering more than 1,000 teachers in Bumthang, Haa, and Chhukha dzongkhags and Thimphu Thromdey. The teachers in the other Dzongkhags would be covered within 2013</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ In order to provide a comprehensive feedback system and enable improvement of quality of services and performance, a holistic assessment and feedback system called the Performance Management System (PMS) has been introduced since 2012. Under this system, all schools are ranked in order of performance at classes III, VI, X and XII and individual rankings shared with the schools themselves while the top ten schools are recognised and declared publicly. The low performing schools are visited and supported</li> </ul>
90	Community participation through school management boards and parent-teacher meetings shall be strengthened and their context broadened.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ All schools have School Management Boards with representation from parents and the community in addition to teachers and students</li> <li>❖ With the institution of School Self-Assessment Tool, the schools have functioning parents' support groups to take the lead role in parenting education programmes and parents' contributions are acknowledged in school newsletters, magazines and during Parent-Teacher Meetings</li> <li>❖ The National Education Policy provides for the participation of parents and the community in the management of the school and support to education of the children</li> </ul>
91	The aim and efforts of the Party shall be to ensure that the unemployment rate does not go beyond acceptable limits.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ There has been a decline in the unemployment rate from 4.2% in 2008 to 2.1% in 2012</li> </ul>
92	The private sector is and must be the main source of employment for the nation's labour force, given the limitations of the public sector.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Has accorded high priority to unleashing the power of the private sector and diversification of economy from policy reform to adopting new policy measures, from Bhutan branding initiatives to establishment of industrial estates, from establishment of high level private sector development committee to advice government to economic and market analysis, from enhancing vocational training programme to facilitating and providing support to business start-ups, and from enhancing G2C and G2B e-governance to opening new trade routes with India and Bangladesh</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ As of 31 December 2012, a total of 29,803 retail and wholesale licenses and micro trade certificates have been issued. The wholesale and retail trade sector share of GDP was 5.42% in 2011 and the trade sector contributed Nu. 7.1 billion towards national exchequer, an increase of Nu. 2.2 billion from the previous year</li> </ul>
93	<p>Opportunities for gainful employment for the youth will be promoted by formulating specific policies aimed at enhancing productivity, to support higher wage jobs in the economy. A skilled and competitive labour force will be built and enhanced through the expansion and improvement of technical vocational education and enterprise based training. Existing market failures in skills creation and capability development of the labour force will be corrected through a thorough review of the formal and vocational education and training policy.</p> <p>Career counselling in schools will be strengthened to help students choose careers based on their aptitude and to try and change the mindset of the youth towards working in the private sector and blue collared jobs.</p> <p>We will continuously work to improve the skills and knowledge of our youth to enable them to find jobs in a fast growing economy.</p> <p>We will create more opportunities for vocational training for school leavers by improving and expanding the existing institutions and establishing a new one in the south.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The unemployment issue in the country is not due to shortage of jobs but mismatch of job demand and supply, and lack of required skills and training. The Government set in motion a comprehensive action from job information to job creation, from job fair and career guidance to skills training, from setting occupational standards to supporting business start-ups, and from development of a national HRD plan to drafting the National Employment Policy</li> <li>❖ The Labour Force Survey every year has shown a declining unemployment rate, for instance it was 4.0% for the year 2009, 3.3 % for 2010, 3.1% for 2011, and 2.1% for 2012 which is despite the rapid increase of 3.3% labour force from 325,700 in 2009 to 336,391 in 2012</li> <li>❖ The youth unemployment rate, defined as the number of unemployed youth between 15-24 years divided by the youth labour force, has also declined by 5.6% from 12.9% in 2009 to 7.3% in 2012. In absolute term, it is 3,476 youths unemployed in 2012</li> <li>❖ The National Youth Policy was launched in December 2011 to ensure a broad framework to guide youth development and empower youth so that all young men and women are provided with support and access to meaningful opportunities to reach their full potential, and to overcome the current day challenges</li> <li>❖ To ensure the effective implementation of the National Youth policy, a National Steering Committee, has been formed and a National Action Plan for Implementation of the National Youth Policy has been developed</li> </ul>



Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
	<p>Higher minimum wages and salaries shall be established for blue collar jobs by implementing a national minimum wage structure.</p> <p>In addition to increasing access to vocational education, we will encourage and support entrepreneurial and apprenticeship programs. Entrepreneurial development activities will also be expanded to encourage self employment.</p> <p>In this regard, credit guarantee and business start-off schemes will be effectively employed.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Towards the development and enforcement of effective strategies to empower the youth and overcome youth challenges, all Dzongkhags and Thromdeys have been asked to form Multi-sectoral Task Forces to implement the National Youth Policy</li> <li>❖ In addition to dedicated career education classes all secondary schools have been directed to maintain a separate notice board for posting career related information, including possible career choices, job vacancies and other career counselling materials</li> <li>❖ Vocational Skills development courses as optional subjects are being piloted in 6 schools nearby VTIs</li> <li>❖ The 'Agriculture and Food Security' Curriculum shall be piloted in the 2013 academic year</li> <li>❖ Towards orienting children to vocation trades, 54 Vocational teachers were trained in the VTIs and vocational clubs were initiated in 53 schools</li> </ul>
94	We will increase access to Class XI and beyond as part of our employment policy to raise higher educational levels for a knowledge-based society.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Provided scholarship to 45% of class X graduates going to class XI in 2013, above the policy cut off level of 40%</li> <li>❖ Around 30 scholarships (from private schools, BoB and YDF) are offered to disadvantaged students (orphans, single parent with financial constraint, from poor socio-economic background, girls) who could not qualify to government schools</li> <li>❖ 6 new private higher secondary schools have been opened in the 10th FYP, thereby enhancing the access to class XI and beyond</li> <li>❖ Further, the Ministry of Education facilitates the provision of about 30 scholarships for disadvantaged students with support from private schools, BoB and YDF</li> <li>❖ With the 'Guidance and Counselling Framework for Schools in Bhutan', the guidance and counselling which includes career education has been streamlined</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
95	To prevent a mismatch between education and training, and employment needs and to ensure that the priorities and programmes of the education system and the vocational training programmes are in line with market demands, a market oriented planning approach to education curriculum, based on economic and labour market trends and the industrial policy will be adopted.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The unemployment issue in the country is not due to shortage of jobs but mismatch of job demand and supply, and lack of required skills and training. We set in motion a comprehensive government action from job information to job creation, from job fair and career guidance to skills training, from setting occupational standards to supporting business start ups, and from development of a national HRD plan to drafting the National Employment Policy</li> <li>❖ The Labour Force Survey every year has shown a declining unemployment rate, for instance it was 4.0% for the year 2009, 3.3 % for 2010, 3.1% for 2011, and 2.1% for 2012 which is despite the rapid increase of 3.3% labour force from 325,700 in 2009 to 336,391 in 2012</li> <li>❖ The youth unemployment rate, defined as the number of unemployed youth between 15-24 years divided by the youth labour force, has also declined by 5.6% from 12.9% in 2009 to 7.3% in 2012. In absolute term, it is 3476 youths unemployed in 2012</li> <li>❖ Vocational Skills development courses as optional subjects are being piloted in 5 schools nearby VTIs</li> <li>❖ The 'Agriculture and Food Security' Curriculum introduced as optional subjects in classes IX from 2013 in 20 schools in 20 Dzongkhags</li> <li>❖ 54 Vocational teachers were trained in the VTIs and vocational clubs were initiated in 53 schools</li> </ul>
96	Tracer studies on the labour market outcomes of graduates over time will also be conducted so that adjustments can be made in training supply. The labour market information system will be strengthened to include detailed statistics on the quality and quantity of jobs available in the labour market.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The MoE has conducted a Tracer Study to study the trajectory of school graduates and analyse the reasons for unemployment, the factors motivating young people and other issues and challenges related to education, vocational training, higher education and employment</li> <li>❖ Numerous surveys on employment carried out</li> <li>❖ Advisory series also issued regularly</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
97	We will mobilise the resources for the 10 <sup>th</sup> five year plan from existing as well as new donors and we have the confidence that the donor community will extend their full support to the first democratically elected government to ensure the confidence of the people in the institution of democracy.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The resource mobilization was successful. The 10<sup>th</sup> FYP is the most ambitious plan with a total outlay of Nu. 150 billion which is 114% more than the 9<sup>th</sup> FYP</li> <li>❖ There are three major projects outside the 10<sup>th</sup> FYP viz. (i) 10,000 MW Hydropower Development by 2020 (ii) Chiphpen Rigpel Project and (iii) University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
<b>II</b>	<b>Environment Conservation</b>				
98	We will ensure that our environmental health is safeguarded and will reduce our vulnerability to man-made and natural disasters.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Forest cover over 80%</li> <li>❖ Towards ensuring a holistic education and to infuse the national values and principles of GNH into the school system, the Educating for GNH programme has been initiated in all the schools with the theme “Green Schools for Green Bhutan” since 2010. The elements of a green school encompass the multiple dimensions of the learners’ lives - natural, intellectual, academic, social, cultural, spiritual, aesthetic, and moral</li> </ul>
99	We will continue playing a leadership role in the global and regional arena on environmental issues with a set agenda on climate change, ozone depletion and atmospheric (industrial) pollution in general.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ It is a matter of immense national pride that our small country continues to rise in stature as a world leader in environmental conservation, and our policy initiatives and ground actions have been recognised and appreciated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In 2011, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo was inducted into the Kyoto Earth Hall of Fame which is an award to honour in perpetuity the achievements of those who have made outstanding contribution to conservation of the global environment</li> <li>➤ Again in 2011, Bhutan was one of the three countries nominated to the Future Policy Award 2011 by World Future Council</li> <li>➤ In 2012, Her Majesty the Gyalsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck received recognition and appointment as the United Nation’s Environment Protection Ambassador for Ozone at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Bhutan hosted the sub-regional Summit on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in Thimphu. The Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas –Bhutan 2011 between the four eastern Himalayan quadrangle countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) on adaptation to the Climate change</li> <li>❖ Bhutan hosted the Bhutan+10 conference on ‘Gender and Sustainable Mountain Development in a Changing World’ in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The RMNP, JDWNP, BWS and SWS are identified to be included under the Natural sites under World Heritage Site of UNESCO</li> <li>❖ Bhutan pledged to the international communities to be carbon-neutral at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP15) held in Copenhagen. This pledge is to pursue a green economy in sync with developmental philosophy of Gross National Happiness</li> </ul>
100	A high level team will be established for the study of and negotiation of <i>carbon trading</i> and other financially rewarding environmental service schemes such as Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The National Environment Commission has been enhanced with Prime Minister as the Chairperson with four Cabinet Ministers</li> <li>❖ Climate Change Unit has been upgraded to Climate Change Division</li> <li>❖ Dagachhu HEP registered as a CDM project. Punatshangchu HEP I and Mangdechu are in the process of application as a CDM project</li> </ul>
101	We resolve to support and further strengthen the National Environment Commission (NEC) to enable it to better carry out its responsibility in the formulation and enforcement of environment policies and regulations.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Human resource capacity strengthened at the NEC</li> </ul>
102	We will promote partnerships between the government, communities, private sector and civil societies to address environmental issues and concerns in a holistic manner.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Partnership projects were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “Shoe Vival” which integrates concept of reducing, reusing and recycling waste and includes giving and helping the poor. Because of the environmental benefits while promoting a “green economy”, this venture was focused on and given support in the form of grants and other assistance</li> <li>➤ “Greener way”, a private waste management enterprise employing around 31 people, was given support in the form of subsidies, grants and other facilities to encourage waste collection while promoting good environment practices and addressing waste problem in Bhutan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Through the second NAPA project under Climate Change, the civil society organisation Tarayana has been assisted in availing funds for rain water harvesting (approx. US\$ 340,000) and a second project for community based climate resilience for food security (approx. \$ 241,000)</li> <li>➤ The RSPN has been a beneficiary of the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation for their community based projects in conservation and enhancing livelihoods of communities</li> </ul>
103	We will use community and private forests as an important strategy for rural employment and income generation. We will provide an enabling environment for communities to engage in sustainable harvesting and use of non-timber forest products.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The concept of community forestry offers with participation of local people an effective and efficient instrument for sustainable forest management in contrast to the state managing all forest areas. The concept was first experimented in Drametse Gewog, Mongar Dzongkhag in 1996. The number of community forests established in the 12 year period prior 2008 was 57. The Government in 2008 accelerated the programme with establishment of 61 community forests in one year alone, and since then 428 new CFs has been established with an average of two per Gewog covering a forest area of 50,435 acres and benefiting 19,788 households. Also, 74 Non-Wood Forest Products groups have been formed with 3,158 households</li> </ul>
104	We will ensure that all protected forests in ecologically vulnerable and water catchments areas of major rivers are demarcated and will accordingly place them under state management.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Developed Master Plan for major watersheds</li> <li>❖ Ratified the RAMSAR Convention and three RAMSAR sites established including one in Phobjikha</li> <li>❖ Identified one critical catchment area for protection and rehabilitation</li> <li>❖ Created Watershed Management Division, under DoFPS as a oversight body to avoid any duplicating roles and responsibilities and watershed management</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
105	We will allot user rights and responsibility for management of forests and forest-based resources such as <i>sokshing</i> , pastures, timber, sand and stones to local communities within boundaries as determined and established by the local government and in keeping with the Local Governance Act 2007.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Rural Timber Subsidy Policy drafted</li> <li>❖ Forest fire rules endorsed</li> <li>❖ Guidelines for the surface collection of sand and stone endorsed and implemented</li> <li>❖ Land act under review also covering <i>Sokshing</i> and <i>Tsamdro</i></li> </ul>
106	We will develop a clear water policy and strategy for its sustainable exploitation and conservation. An appropriate agency, existing or new, shall be given the responsibility for water policies, coordination and management issues.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Designated NEC as the focal Water Agency in Bhutan, and established within it the Water Resource Coordination Division with the mandate to coordinate water issues in the country</li> <li>❖ Developed Bhutan Water Policy</li> <li>❖ The Water Act of Bhutan enacted in 2011</li> </ul>
107	While we will continue to invest in hydropower development, we also recognise the need to plough back revenue from hydropower and other water based industries into a watershed management fund.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Developed Forest Plantation Strategy</li> <li>❖ Carried out forest plantation through HEP financing in Wangchu river basin covering 3 Dzongkhags of Paro, Chukha and Thimphu</li> </ul>
108	Besides hydroelectricity we will also explore and attract and enable foreign investment for diversification in the exploitation of our water resources, such as the export of bottled water.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Water based products included in the priority list of activities of FDI Policy 2010</li> <li>❖ The Ministry approved a proposal for water bottling plant under FDI</li> <li>❖ Besides this, the Ministry received three FDI applications for water bottling</li> <li>❖ Nine domestic water projects were approved</li> <li>❖ Eleven domestic applications received and are under process</li> <li>❖ Market study of water was carried out during the plan period</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
109	We will also remain sensitive to the riparian rights of our neighbouring countries and will harness our rivers responsibly.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The NEC has a representative in the Border Dialogue Task Force which deals with the issue of water concerns with our neighbouring countries. We have also played active roles within the SAARC and other multilateral and bilateral forums in ensuring responsible actions with regard to water issues</li> <li>❖ Adopted the Social and Environment Management Framework (SEMF) developed by the World Bank dealing with the international waters among others. SEMF have been documented for Rural Remote Communities Development Projects (RRCDP) covering 26 gewogs in 6 Dzongkhags</li> <li>❖ Initiated dialogue through the Climate Change summit to take account of downstream communities</li> </ul>
110	We will further enhance the image of the country as a biodiversity hotspot by ensuring the protection of species and their habitats.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Revised the scheduled list of wild life species in the Forest and Nature Conservation Act (FNCA)</li> <li>❖ Developed the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Policy</li> <li>❖ Developed habitat protection strategy for key species such as Tiger, Elephant, Snow leopards, Red Panda</li> <li>❖ Biodiversity information made accessible online; 760 new plant species and 40 new live plants documented in addition to the existing information on flora of Bhutan</li> <li>❖ Established Wangchuck Centennial Park in 2008 covering total of 4,914 sq. km. It also covers five Dzongkhags of Gasa, Wangdue Phodrang, Bumthang, Trongsa and Lhuentse</li> </ul>
111	We will minimise the disturbance to critical habitats and ecosystems through appropriate compensation mechanisms to affected communities and parties.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Initiated Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and PES feasibility assessment completed</li> <li>❖ Three pilot sites identified for the PES scheme implemented and so far over 300 households have been compensated for the livestock depredation</li> </ul>



Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The strengthening of national capacities particularly in developing a sound scientific knowledge base of our rich biological diversity and tapping the opportunities from biodiversity for effective utilisation of our biological resources in a sustainable manner is a high priority. Towards this, a new Bio-prospecting Laboratory was established at the National Biodiversity Centre (NBC), Serbithang</li> </ul>
112	We will judiciously undertake bio-prospecting and opportunities for engaging in bio-trading as permissible under national and international laws and strengthen the capacity of the National Biodiversity Programme to coordinate the use, conservation and management of biodiversity.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Drafted Agro-Biodiversity policy</li> <li>❖ Initiated the development of cosmetic products where two plant species are currently undergoing tests</li> <li>❖ Established Access and Benefit-sharing fund</li> <li>❖ Set up Bio-prospecting laboratory and it is in the process of taking inventory of the plants based on traditional knowledge; collected plant extracts and the contents are being studied for the confirmation of the ingredients</li> <li>❖ The strengthening of national capacities particularly in developing a sound scientific knowledge base of our rich biological diversity and tapping the opportunities from biodiversity for effective utilisation of our biological resources in a sustainable manner is a high priority. Towards this, a new Bio-prospecting Laboratory was established at the National Biodiversity Centre (NBC), Serbithang</li> <li>❖ Groups have been formed for supply of orchid flowers to Quantum Pharmaceuticals Limited (QPL), Switzerland for production of a cosmetic product (Redeem) and the surplus will be sold in the market by the community. The income generated through the sale of flowers and saplings will strengthen the functioning and sustainability of the Community Forestry Group</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
113	A national strategy for garbage management and pollution control will be drawn up focussing on subsidies for recycling plants, rules and regulations for garbage separation and disposal, liquid waste disposal, air pollution standards, emission controls and subsidies for environment friendly hybrid vehicles. Advocacy on waste disposal measures, such as the inculcation of waste reduction in the minds of young children as a social responsibility and garbage sorting and recycling, will be strongly promoted.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A National Strategy for Integrated Solid Waste Management is in drafting process</li> <li>❖ The Waste Prevention and Management Act enacted in 2009</li> <li>❖ A Waste Regulation has been developed to implement the provisions of the Waste management Act and ensure sectoral responsibilities in this area</li> <li>❖ Environment Discharge standards have been developed for air and water emission and effluents including ambient and point source. Ambient air quality is reported in some major towns daily through the media</li> <li>❖ Vehicle emission standards are also in place and implemented</li> <li>❖ Incentives on environment friendly projects are offered through the above acts</li> <li>❖ Numerous advocacies on waste management have been developed including posters, videos and through many other forms. Public Service announcements have been ongoing in this area beginning sensitization to the issue</li> <li>❖ Under the Educating for GNH programmes, schools have become active proponents of environmental conservation and waste management. Many schools have initiated green programmes such as recycling waste water and materials, planting greenery in the surroundings, maintaining clean campuses, rain water harvesting, promoting packed lunch as opposed to commercial processed food stuff etc</li> <li>❖ These initiatives play the double role of environmental conservation as well as educating the students, staff and surrounding community</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
<b>III</b>	<b>Preservation and Promotion of Culture</b>				
114	We will improve the quality of life of every individual and community in Bhutan by enriching individual lives and transforming communities, towns and cities into vibrant and secure environments, within which our children and elderly will thrive. Efforts will be stepped up to spread prosperity and opportunity to improve housing, revive dying communities and lift people out of poverty, so that all of us have the highest quality of life attainable.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Decline in poverty rate of 23.2% in 2007 to 12.04% in 2012</li> <li>❖ Increase in per capita GDP from US\$ 1,847 in 2008 to US\$2,986 in 2012</li> <li>❖ Common minimum programme</li> <li>❖ Recreational parks e.g. at Changjiji Housing Complex</li> </ul>
115	We pledge to honour and promote this diversity for all times to come. We are committed to preserving and promoting our age old cultural wealth and heritage and pass it on to succeeding generations. We will ensure harmony and understanding among various sections of the society irrespective of ethnicity, faith, language and customs.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Continuing environment of peace, prosperity and happiness</li> <li>❖ Continuous efforts are made to conserve our varied cultural properties housed inside Dzongs, Lhakhangs and temples</li> <li>❖ Hosted the first ever 'International Conference on Protection of Cultural Property in Asia'</li> <li>❖ Provided training on Driglam Namzha to 1,441 civil servants including department heads of Ministries, officials from Dzongkhags, Dungkhags, Gewogs Corporations, Institutes and NGOs</li> <li>❖ All graduates passed out from colleges within and outside Bhutan were provided the training on Driglam during their Orientation Program annually</li> <li>❖ Arranged and coordinated the Zhugdrel and Chipdrel Ceremony on various national occasions</li> <li>❖ Published hand book on Driglam Namzha called 'Nyerkhoei Driglam' and distributed to all agencies</li> <li>❖ Drafted Chadri guide, Zhaysai lamtoen and Chipdrel guide</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
116	We will allocate the necessary resources for further developing Dzongkha into a dynamic and user-friendly language.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Approved the Dzongkha Development and Promotion Strategy Framework in 2011 to further strengthen the national language</li> <li>❖ Undertook a national survey looking at the standard of Dzongkhag knowledge of the class X students</li> <li>❖ 2,000 different traditional Dzongkha terminologies have been compiled from different villages in the country. The terminologies were not available in the existing Dzongkhag dictionaries and books</li> <li>❖ The English-Dzongkha Pocket Dictionary was printed and distributed to students from class VII to college students</li> <li>❖ A look up digital Dzongkha-English and English-Dzongkha dictionaries for mobile phones and Dzongkha keyboard with Android software have been completed</li> <li>❖ Dzongkha advocacy campaigns were regularly carried out</li> </ul>
117	We will strengthen scientific and business education in the English language keeping in view its role and importance in a globalised world.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ English is the medium of instruction in schools and higher learnings</li> </ul>
118	We will allocate adequate resources to document and promote the use and survival of all other languages and dialects.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Completed a linguistic survey in the five Dzongkhags of Wangdue Phodrang, Zhemgang, Haa, Samtse and Pemagatsel</li> <li>❖ DDC studied language policies, orthographical development, dictionary development, and language promotion through ICT in Thailand</li> </ul>
119	Measures to strengthen the institution of family and community will be promoted.  In adhering to the principles of GNH, ways and means shall be explored and devised to strengthen our extended family network as the most viable and sustainable social safety net.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Government support in construction, reconstruction and renovation of village lhakhangs</li> <li>❖ GNH values promoted in schools, communities and local government</li> <li>❖ Cooperative Act amended in 2009</li> <li>❖ Growth of cooperatives and farmers' groups</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
	<p>We will help build a network of volunteers and NGOs at the national and community levels to support this natural system with technical, logistical and financial help. To this end, we will use existing social institutions such as the monasteries and nunneries to be complemented by NGOs for a mutually satisfying and gratifying collaboration.</p> <p>We will strengthen and provide holistic support to the existing mechanisms and institutions, especially the non-governmental organisations.</p>				
120	We shall also promote and enrich the other dimensions of Bhutanese culture such as art, literature, festivals, music, architecture, sports, etc.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Writing in Dzongkha and English has become a vocation for a growing number of poets, novelist, folk lyrics and story tellers. The Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research which serves as the National Book Registry has issued ISBN numbers for 1,128 books since its establishment in 2007</li> <li>❖ Mountain Echoes Festival, a literary festival to celebrate primarily writers from India and Bhutan has become an important annual event</li> <li>❖ Bhutan participated at the Taipei International Book Exhibition (TIBE), Taiwan in February 2011 in which over 500 titles by Bhutanese authors were displayed, and the Bhutan Pavilion was the star attraction at the Exhibition</li> <li>❖ A bill on the Archive of Bhutan is being drafted to strengthen and protect the archive system in the country</li> <li>❖ Area for multi-sports and recreational facilities identified. Planning and design works are ongoing at Phuentsholing. Thimphu Thromde has leased land to BoC to develop recreational facilities</li> <li>❖ Many schools have clubs, which promote the local arts and crafts of their area</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Research has been carried out and documented different mask dances, folklores and songs that are performed in different parts of the country</li> <li>❖ Participated in various international exposition programmes by our performing arts team, the significant ones of which were Smithsonian Folk life festival in Washington DC, Cultural Exchange Programme in Japan, Germany, Taiwan, Thailand etc.</li> <li>❖ Our museums have increased their collections thus enriching our living culture with several exhibitions and festivals</li> </ul>
121	Further we shall promote a greater understanding and advocacy of our GNH culture and philosophy and seek to operationalise it, in all spheres of our lives.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The UN adopted the happiness resolution and declared 20 March as International Happiness Day</li> <li>❖ Already five policies have been assessed using the GNH policy screening tool and approved by the Royal Government in the past year. These are: (i) National Youth Policy 2011, (ii) National Health Policy 2011, (iii) National Land Policy, 2011, (iv) National Forest Policy, 2011, (v) National Irrigation Policy, 2011, (vi) RNR Research Policy and (vii) Small and Medium Enterprise Policy (MSME), (viii) National Renewable Energy Policy</li> <li>❖ Eleven draft policies that have been assessed or awaiting assessment before submission to the Royal Government for approval are: (i) Mineral Development Policy (MDP), (ii) Thromde Finance Policy, (iii) Subsidised Timber and Other Forest Produce Allotment Policy, (iv) National Employment Policy, (v) National Education Policy and (vi) National Population Policy</li> <li>❖ Centre for Bhutan Studies renamed as Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
122	<p>We will ensure that our culture of gender equality is preserved and strengthened and that any prevailing anomalies do not become accepted norms. Gender equity will be promoted in economic, social and political spheres and where necessary, special incentives will be provided to enable women participation in local governance, national politics and in civil society. We will support the implementation of gender mainstreaming in each sector and carry out research on gender issues and collect disaggregated data and create awareness.</p> <p>Stronger enforcement of laws pertaining to domestic violence and provide support for the girl child will be ensured while empowering women and children with behavioural training and professional counselling.</p> <p>Appropriate legislation and policies to protect and strengthen the rights and welfare of women and children, especially those confronting violent environments, including domestic violence shall be enacted.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Child Care and Protection Act enacted in 2011</li> <li>❖ Regulation on Acceptable Forms of Child Labour</li> <li>❖ Regulation on Sexual Harassment</li> <li>❖ The National Assembly passed the Domestic Violence Bill</li> <li>❖ NCWC undertook Study of Gender Stereotypes and Women's Political Participation (Women in Governance)</li> <li>❖ A study on girls enrolment at the secondary education level was conducted by the Ministry of Education to look into the gender disparity at higher levels of education</li> </ul>
123	<p>A special effort shall be made to enable greater female enrolment in all levels of the education system, especially at the secondary and tertiary level, and in vocational schools, by improving awareness and sensitivity to their needs. The lowering of the early school dropout incidence among women will also receive our highest priority.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Gender parity has been achieved up to the secondary level</li> <li>❖ There is noticeable progress at the tertiary level with the girls to boys ratio improving from about 54% in 2008 to 71% in 2012</li> <li>❖ These improvements in female enrolment have also been helped by the expansion in the number of CE centres from 4 centres and 530 learners in 2008 to 25 centres and 1,670 learners in 2012</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Around 30 scholarships (from private schools, BoB and YDF) are offered to disadvantaged students (orphans, single parent with financial constraint, from poor socio-economic background, girls) who could not qualify to government schools</li> <li>❖ Domestic Violence Prevention Bill in Parliament</li> <li>❖ RENEW</li> </ul>
124	<p>We will promote integration and inclusion of the aged, building respect for them and engaging them in innovative ways to contribute to society. Special measures to promote spiritual, emotional and physiological wellbeing of the aged through family and community based care will be undertaken while stimulating volunteerism and NGO participation. Steps will be taken to strengthen formal and informal networks, local authorities and civil societies and to institute voluntary mechanisms aimed at creating a caring and compassionate society. Various options such as advocacy and even legislation shall be examined so that the aged are not orphaned and marginalised by society and to counter the growing indifference and apathy that is beginning to appear in families. We will introduce legislation and policy measures to respect, protect and aid the underprivileged and the disabled. Such laws shall include special health and education services and legal protection. Programmes shall be put in place to mainstream people with disabilities and to draw up strategies for their dignified rehabilitation. Likewise, appropriate laws and support systems shall be put in place.</p>		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Under the Draft National Population Policy, enhanced quality of life and welfare of the elderly is an important policy for the government</li> <li>❖ The Ministry of Health has established Geriatric Care Program to address the need of the elderly population in the country and promote resourcefulness, productivity, vitality and happiness</li> <li>❖ A pilot project was launched in Khaling community to determine the feasibility of providing community based health care for the elderly for two years. Upon completion of the pilot, the project would be rolled out to other areas in phased manner</li> <li>❖ Health workers have been trained on elderly medical check-ups, treatment interventions and follow-ups</li> <li>❖ As an outcome of the 30<sup>th</sup> Health Ministers' Meeting of World Health Organisation South East Asia Region countries, the Yogyakarta Declaration on Ageing and Health was adopted calling for improved system, institutions and care services for elderly population through regional and country specific interventions</li> </ul>



Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
125	High priority will be accorded to proper town planning and urban development keeping in mind the present as well as the future generations. Adequate public spaces for recreation, worship, greenery and other needs will be created and maintained. Home ownership will be encouraged and town centres and green spaces improved. Our traditional architecture will be maintained, and possibilities of blending modern building materials and technology with traditional designs will be explored. We will invest to improve housing and to regenerate town centres and communities. The municipal authorities, especially in Thimphu and Phuentsholing will be strengthened to ensure efficient and effective services.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 41 urban plans have been prepared. Some of these plans will be reviewed to match the changes which have taken over the years and incorporate the best planning practices to make vibrant settlements. While planning of the towns, long-term measures will not be compromised in terms of land uses and infrastructure investments. The plans will take into consideration eco-greenery, preservation of cultural monuments, and traditional architecture. Plans will be environmental, disaster and urban poor sensitive</li> <li>❖ Areas for low cost housing shall be identified as part of the LAPs</li> <li>❖ Besides the towns, settlements in rural areas will also be monitored through issuance of development regulations and cluster development must be carried out in consultation with the Department. In this regard, Human Settlement Policy is in formulation and Planning Act will be completed 11 FYP</li> <li>❖ Haphazard development in urban periphery shall be controlled through the concept of valley planning which is being commenced with Bumthang Valley</li> <li>❖ Maintenance of traditional architecture has been one of the mandates of DES, MoWHS, from the start and it will continue to work on this</li> <li>❖ Two new divisions (EARRD &amp; FRMD) has been created to look after these activities</li> <li>❖ Phuentsholing Thromde has been partly strengthened and facilities like toll-free number has been set up. Thimphu Thromde has published service guide and customer care office has been set up with toll-free numbers</li> </ul>
126	Stringent safety standards to mitigate the effects of natural disasters like earthquake, fire and floods, will be enforced.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Created a new central agency responsible for disaster preparedness and management – Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs</li> <li>❖ Formulated good construction practices manual and disseminated trainings to artisans, engineers and homeowners in Dzongkhags affected by disasters</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
127	Existing libraries will be revamped and new and modern libraries built where new services like childcare, after school education for pupils and IT learning, will be delivered. We will develop a strategy for the modernisation of our libraries and sharpen their customer focus. We will encourage further cooperation in back office functions and identify new ways to improve our library infrastructure.		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The location for the Thimphu Public Library will be shifted to a better land near the Royal Textile Museum where there will be more parking space which the old area does not have</li> <li>❖ Library budget for schools</li> <li>❖ Sites for public library in Kanglung and Gelephu identified</li> <li>❖ Installed a new library system in the National Library with data input of 7,818 book titles</li> <li>❖ The National Library continues to grow with large number of manuscripts, books, scriptures and written documents</li> <li>❖ Several new publications were made on history and culture and life of some renowned saints and historical figures like Lam Moenlam Rabzang, Gangtruel Tenzing Legpai Dondrup and Lopen Jampel Dorji's Sungbum</li> </ul>
128	We will be tough on the sale of illicit drugs and its misuse. Stringent measures to prevent and rehabilitate users and punish sellers will be aggressively enforced. Necessary measures to create awareness in schools and colleges on the ill effects of drug abuse and alcoholism, will be adopted. The youth justice system will be overhauled and proper counselling and correctional facilities to address juvenile crimes will be created. Youth rehabilitation centres and youth development centres will be strengthened and expanded in close collaboration with non-governmental organisations. The emergence and establishment of volunteer organisations that will supplement government efforts to address these problems will be supported.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A significant milestone in the history of tobacco control in Bhutan was the enactment of the Tobacco Control Act of Bhutan, 2010 by the Parliament. With the Act fully enforced beginning January 2011, significant reduction on the use of tobacco in the country has been achieved. However, there were issues on some of the provisions of the Act and a Parliamentary review of the Act was initiated. The revised Act was endorsed by the winter session of the Parliament in 2011</li> <li>❖ The National Strategic Framework for Reducing Harmful Use of Alcohol has been developed</li> <li>❖ To reduce harmful use of alcohol, community based pilot interventions were carried out in Mongar and Lhuentse. The reviews of these two Dzongkhags were largely encouraging and the Ministry is in the process of national rollout of these interventions</li> <li>❖ A rehabilitation centre for drugs and alcohol dependence has been established at Serbithang</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
	We will enlist the help of parents and non-governmental organisations to deal with the most persistent young offenders, and institute programmes targeted at young people most at risk of offending and will expand drug-treatment services for young people. We shall address these challenges by forming a committee of experts from both within and outside the country to develop a package of proposals that shall combine advocacy and media, volunteerism, NGO role, school curriculum, community and neighbourhoods, legislation, law enforcement, etc.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Bhutan and India on “Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and precursor of Chemicals and related matters”</li> <li>❖ Inter-country meetings and consultations were held to discuss issues and develop joint interventions on illicit trafficking of controlled drugs and other narcotics and psychotropic substances</li> <li>❖ To address youth issues, the National Youth Policy was endorsed in 2011</li> <li>❖ Similarly, the school discipline policy which empowers schools to take preventive, and corrective actions towards indiscipline has been successful in curbing youth problems</li> <li>❖ In order to ensure that the School Discipline Framework and the policies drawn up by the schools is sustainable and effective, the Ministry of Education also met with the Police and other stakeholders to seek their support in maintaining discipline both in and out of school</li> <li>❖ With the purpose of reaching out and assisting young people to cope with the multitude of concerns that they face in their growing years, the Peer Helpers’ Programme was re-introduced in 39 schools (10 HSS, 11 MSS, 18 LSS), in six Dzongkhags (Thimphu, Paro, Punakha, Haa, Wangdue, Chukha). To ensure that the programme takes root firmly, 57 teacher counselors from these schools were trained</li> </ul>
129	We will therefore broaden and deepen opportunities for sports activities and competitions for all age groups. Investment in school sports and facilities shall be undertaken to ensure that all school children receive high quality physical education. More competitive sports in schools will be encouraged so that students have a chance to compete and excel.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Although sports have always been considered important, it has neither developed in parity with the advancements achieved in other sectors nor has its growth been commensurate with the potential and available talent. However, there is a new lease of life in sports</li> <li>❖ Established the night facility at the Changlimithang National Stadium</li> <li>❖ Artificial turfs laid at Changlimithang</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
	The establishment of a facility for sports instructors to train our children both within and outside institutions shall be considered. The construction of modern high quality sports and recreational facilities in large urban areas shall receive special attention so that people have easier access to good multi-sport facilities.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Many awards have been won by our young men and women</li> <li>❖ Sports budget for schools</li> <li>❖ Sports for Disabled children</li> </ul>
130	We will support the modernisation of the police force and provide them with the necessary resources so that it becomes even more competent and respected to command the trust and confidence of citizens.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) was innovative and undertook comprehensive crime prevention activities and advocacy programs like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Police-Youth Partnership Program in all 20 Dzongkhags</li> <li>➤ Road shows on crime prevention and gender based violence in Thimphu, Wangdue, Punakha, Tsirang and Paro</li> <li>➤ Disbanding of youth gangs and groups in Thimphu</li> <li>➤ Door to door sensitization and demonstration of crime prevention and security enhancing tools for 6,844 households in Thimphu and Phuentsholing</li> <li>➤ Launched Police Patrol on mountain bike in April 2011 at Thimphu</li> <li>➤ Police and Out of School Youth Program in Thimphu, Paro and Phuntsholing</li> <li>➤ Dzongkhag/Gewog Thromde Sensitization Program in Thimphu, Tsirang, Paro, Wangdue, Chukha, Punakha, Dagana, Sarpang and Samdrup Jongkhar covering 508 participants</li> <li>➤ Police-Parent Partnership Program in 20 Dzongkhags covering 12,396 parents</li> <li>➤ Sensitization program in schools on common habits of youth in conflict with law and its penal provisions covering around 47,149 school youths</li> <li>➤ Sensitization program in Higher Secondary Schools and tertiary institutes on role of youth in crime prevention covering 7,530 students</li> <li>➤ Police-Driver Partnership Program towards fostering partnership with the drivers covering 1,280 drivers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
<b>IV</b>	<b>Good Governance</b>				
131	Druk Phuensum Tshogpa will maintain the size of the cabinet at 10 ministries only.	✓			❖ No change in number of ministries
132	<p>Measures will be introduced to minimise paper work, simplify the decision-making process and enhance efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>We will promote and facilitate <i>e-governance</i> to quicken the pace of objective decision making and to improve the delivery of services.</p> <p>We will institute mandatory measures to make government more transparent and accountable through various innovative means including making documents accessible to the media and public.</p> <p>Open discussions will be held with the people on various issues of direct public interest so that we achieve the dual purpose of informing and being guided.</p>	✓			❖ ABSD Initiative ❖ G2C Project ❖ Participation of Prime Minister and Cabinet in the monthly Meet the Press
133	We will make public the government budget, all government plans and policies except those with national security implications, so that the public is aware of what the government is doing at all times.	✓			❖ Budget plans are printed and distributed widely and are also posted online

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
134	<p>We are fully committed to protecting the independence of the civil service and its efforts to continually raise the efficiency and professionalism of the bureaucracy.</p> <p>We will reinforce the policy of a “small, compact and efficient” civil service by further streamlining recruitment, promotion and separation procedures.</p> <p>We will make the civil service a highly respected, well motivated and upright body of professionals, committed to the highest standards of service, integrity and meritocracy.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Civil Service Act enacted in 2010</li> <li>❖ Civil service number is 24,808 as of 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2012</li> <li>❖ Civil service is still the priority for graduate job seekers</li> </ul>
135	<p>We will introduce a reward and recognition system for outstanding officials so as to motivate others to emulate and improve their performance.</p>		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Conferment of awards and recognition by His Majesty the King during the National Day celebrations</li> <li>❖ Independence of the civil service as per Civil Service Act</li> </ul>
136	<p>We will support the Pay Commission in structuring the salaries and benefit packages, including retirement benefits, to attract and retain the best of the best in the civil service and the government at large.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Pay Commission constituted</li> <li>❖ Two times pay raise</li> </ul>
137	<p>We will work towards finding a just, speedy and durable solution to the problem of the people in the camps in Nepal.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Royal Government is deeply grateful to the Core Group of countries led by the US for the compassion and generosity with which they continue to resettle the people in the refugee camps in Nepal. Those who have been resettled in the eight countries send heart-warming reports of having found a new and dignified life of hope and confidence in the future. The total number of people who have been resettled is 75,261 as of December 2012, with 63,593 in the US alone, and the rest have been resettled in Canada (5,296), Australia (3,839), Denmark (744), New Zealand (710), Norway (546), Netherland (326) and UK (257).</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
138	We will institute a system, along the lines of an <i>ombudsman</i> to facilitate the objective and professional redressal of grievances and difficulties faced by civil servants and people.		✓		❖ The provision is included in the Civil Service Act
139	We will consider outsourcing several identified non-core functions of the executive to specialised entities in the private sector. This could include services such as provision of civic amenities, public relations, media and advertising, transportation, customer support and services, market research, information communication and technology, human resource management, real estate management, event management, facility maintenance, cleaning and minor security services etc. An in depth study on outsourcing will be conducted to identify all the functions that could be removed from the domain of the civil services and outsourced to the private sector.		✓		❖ G4S and Elite Security Service ❖ Laundry in JDWNRH outsourced
140	We will support the independence of the judiciary in providing fair, transparent, impartial and expeditious justice within the scope of the existing laws and procedures. The expansion of benches in the larger Dzongkhag courts to provide expeditious justice will be supported.	✓			❖ Support provided
141	The family and juvenile benches in Thimphu and Phuentsholing courts that provide women and children friendly judicial services will also receive our undivided support.	✓			❖ Support provided

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
142	The existing informal dispute settlement mechanisms at the gewog and community levels as well as the existing arbitration and adjudication bodies in various areas will be strengthened.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Alternative dispute resolution bill to be discussed in National Assembly</li> <li>❖ Alternative dispute resolution training given by OAG</li> <li>❖ Water Act where water disputes can be solved outside the court</li> <li>❖ When disagreement arise between government and the private contractors, an arbitration penal is formed to solve such disagreement</li> </ul>
143	Weavowtoensureequalaccesslegal support and protection of law through legislation to protect the legally disadvantaged as a result of poverty, <i>pro bono</i> legal support to the disadvantaged and effective dissemination of laws and regulations to create awareness of the rights as well as duties of citizens.			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Laws are uploaded on OAG, judiciary and National Assembly website for easy access</li> </ul>
144	We will respect and support the independence of all constitutional bodies and strengthen them by ensuring that only persons of the highest integrity of character and proven performance and competence are appointed to head such bodies.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Government has extended full support and cooperation</li> </ul>



Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
145	<p>We recognise the need to facilitate voting and improve voter turnout, but more importantly to ensure political responsibility, accountability and representation. Democracy has no meaning if large numbers of eligible voters in the country are deprived of the opportunity and fundamental right to cast their votes, because of economic considerations and logistical inconveniences. We will therefore strive to ensure that all eligible voters are not denied their constitutionally granted right to choose their political representation by providing and promoting more convenient and affordable facilities.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Advised the Election Commission for extension of postal ballot facility for Bhutanese working and living overseas, and for introduction of absentee voting and establishment of special polling stations</li> </ul>
146	<p>The Druk Phuensum Tshogpa is fully committed to the eradication of corruption in all its ugly forms such as outright bribery, favouritism, nepotism, misuse of power and influence, intimidation and generally unequal treatment of people.</p> <p>We will fight corruption without fear or favour.</p> <p>We will promote public education, including in schools and special advocacy programmes to increase people's awareness as a strategy for prevention of corruption.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Extended full support and cooperation to oversight bodies</li> <li>❖ Automation and online services initiated under ABSD Initiative and G2C will go a long way to eliminate corruption in the system</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
147	<p>The growth of a free and responsible media will receive our full encouragement and support.</p> <p>We will provide access to information to the public and media on all issues except that which concerns national sovereignty and security.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ One National TV, 7 radio stations and 12 newspapers</li> <li>❖ Monthly Meet the Press</li> <li>❖ Media Literacy Education Programme</li> <li>❖ Financial support through advertisement</li> <li>❖ Tax exemptions</li> </ul>
148	<p>We will develop and strengthen the disaster management capacity of the country by establishing a fully fledged organization with adequate capacity for the mitigation of threats arising from natural disasters (e.g. rapidly withdrawing glaciers, Glacial Lakes Outburst Floods and earthquakes).</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Created the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs in 2008 to oversee and secure the safety of the country and people through the mitigation and reduction of disaster risks</li> <li>❖ The DDM within a year of its establishment was put to test by the most severe earthquake in recent memory of magnitude 6.1 to strike the eastern region of the country on 21 September 2009. It played the pivotal role in coordination, relief, assessment, recovery and reconstruction</li> <li>❖ The DDM in preparing the country for varied natural disasters has undertaken a range of projects and activities. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prepared the Disaster Management Bill which is pending in Parliament</li> <li>➤ Extensive public education and awareness raising on hazards/risks/vulnerabilities; earthquake risks and do's and don'ts; emergency medical and first aid training; fire safety campaigns; GLOF awareness and building capacities on disaster mitigation, preparedness and response</li> <li>➤ Developed Early Warning Systems for major river basins</li> <li>➤ Mock drills</li> <li>➤ Developed many important documents viz: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ National Disaster Risk Management Framework</li> <li>✓ National Recovery and Reconstruction Plan</li> <li>✓ Safety Tips for Flooding Events</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fire Safety and Protection</li> <li>✓ Earthquake Safety Tips</li> <li>✓ Earthquake Safety in Schools</li> <li>✓ Guideline on Proper Construction Practices for Non-Engineered Buildings</li> <li>❖ Hosted the International Conference on Disaster Management and Cultural Heritage with the theme “Living in Harmony with the Four Elements” from 12-14 December 2010</li> <li>❖ Created a new Seismology Division in the Department of Geology and Mines during the 10<sup>th</sup> FYP Mid-Term Review</li> </ul>
149	We will also prepare a plan of action to deal with other emergencies that may arise from outbreak of diseases, famines or social unrests.	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Effective response mechanisms established</li> <li>❖ Bird flu epidemic has been effectively dealt with</li> </ul>
150	<p>We are committed to working with all nations and organizations to promote the wellbeing of all mankind, world peace, and progress.</p> <p>We will continue to attach the highest importance to bilateral and multilateral relations and play an active role in promoting regional and international understanding and cooperation. In this regard, we value and appreciate the immense contribution of our donor community towards the development of our country and our Party will further strengthen our relations with them and seek their continued goodwill and support.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The tenure of the first elected government has been a significant year for Bhutan’s foreign policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Their Majesties the King and Gyaltsuen paid state visits to India and Japan</li> <li>➤ Lyonchhen paid official visits to India, Japan and other nations including the SAARC countries</li> <li>➤ The UN General Assembly passed a resolution on wellbeing and Happiness in July, 2011</li> <li>➤ Bhutan hosted the High Level Meeting on Wellbeing and Happiness at the UN in New York on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2012</li> <li>➤ The UN General Assembly passed a resolution declaring 20<sup>th</sup> March as the International Day of Happiness in June, 2012</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
	<p>We will promote the image and profile of our country and advance goodwill and friendship with other countries and organizations.</p> <p>We will pursue membership and become signatory to all relevant international and regional conventions on the basis of an understanding of their ramifications.</p> <p>We shall remain faithful to Bhutan's neutrality and principled position in the international arena.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Bhutan has established diplomatic relations with 50 countries</li> <li>❖ The RGOB initiated one-year multi-entry visas for ambassadors accredited to Bhutan and their spouses since August 2011. This gesture is expected to further promote our bilateral cooperation and relations with all these countries</li> <li>❖ In an innovative foreign policy measure intended to foster greater understanding and cooperation between Bhutan and the international community, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with Druk Air and the Tourism Council of Bhutan, has introduced for the first time, a Visitors Program for Ambassadors based in neighbouring countries. These visits will contribute significantly to promoting greater awareness and understanding of Bhutan at the international level, and bilaterally, also contribute to the promotion of Bhutan as a tourist destination, and partner for economic investments. Since the first Visitors Programme for Ambassadors from 25-28 May 2012, one group visit by Dhaka-based and six group visits by New Delhi-based ambassadors have taken place up to end of June 2012, representing 44 countries</li> </ul>
151	<p>We will accord the highest priority to maintaining and furthering the excellent relations with the people and the Government of India. We will carry forward the exemplary and mutually beneficial cooperation that is the hallmark of our relations and deepen our economic ties.</p>	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Relations with India, which is based on age-old ties of friendship, cooperation and mutual respect, remain the cornerstone of our policy</li> <li>❖ His Majesty the King's visits to India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 23 – 30 January 2013: His Majesty the King attended India's 64<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations as Chief Guest held in New Delhi on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013. His Majesty the King was accompanied by Her Majesty the Gyaltshuen</li> <li>➤ 23 – 30 October 2011: Their Majesties the King and Gyaltshuen paid a State Visit to India soon after the Royal Wedding in October 2011 at the invitation of the Government of India</li> <li>➤ 20 – 25 October 2010: His Majesty attended the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the National Defence College in New Delhi and delivered the keynote address</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sl. No.	PLEDGE	FF	PF	NF	REMARKS
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 5 – 7 October 2010: His Majesty the King visited Kolkata, West Bengal to grace the 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation at the University of Kolkata where His Majesty delivered the valedictory address as the Chief Guest</li> <li>➤ 21 – 26 December 2009: His Majesty undertook a historic six-day State Visit to India at the invitation of the President of India. During the visit, His Majesty delivered the prestigious Madhavrao Scindia Memorial lecture</li> <li>❖ Hon'ble Lyonchhen visited India on 9 separate occasions in the past five years with the latest being the official visit to New Delhi from 7-9 February 2013</li> </ul>
152	We pledge our continued trust in our armed forces to play the most important role of safeguarding the peace, security and sovereignty of our country. Druk Phuensum Tshogpa shall always extend full support for the strengthening and wellbeing of the armed forces.	✓			❖ The Government deeply appreciates the services of the armed forces for their dedicated service to the King, Country and People
153	We shall always uphold the sacred institution of the Monarchy and the person of His Majesty the King with the highest of reverence and allegiance as the fountainhead of justice and the symbol of our nation's sovereignty and unity. Druk Phuensum Tshogpa and our supporters pledge our unwavering loyalty to the <i>Tsawa Sum</i> .	✓			❖ The Government rededicates its reverence and allegiance to His Majesty the King and the sacred institution of Monarchy, the life force of our nation. The manner in which the Royal Government organised the Coronation, Centenary Celebrations and the Royal Wedding is a demonstration of the government's allegiance to the sacred institution of the Monarchy and the King

