

NC/10-11/ BUDGET

15th January, 2010

Dear Sir,

You may recall that I, along with a delegation of disabled rights activists from across the country had a meeting with you at your residence after the last Union Budget was placed in the Parliament. We had expressed our disappointment at the fact that disability was totally neglected in the Budget, despite our letters to you. You had then assured us that you would look into matter.

Sir, in a matter of a few weeks, you would be presenting the Union Budget for the year 2010-11. Historically, the issues concerning 70 million disabled people have always been pushed to the sidelines. However, we have high hopes from you this time around.

Sir, as you are aware, the XIth Five Year Plan has an entire chapter on disability issues. However, it is disheartening that the Plan is already halfway through and not even a single promise has been kept.

Besides many other things, the following are a few tangibles mandated in the XIth Plan:

- 1: National Institute of Universal Design (under the Ministry of Urban Development)
- 2: National Captioning Centre (under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)
- 3: Sign Language Research and Training Centre (under the Ministry of Human Resource Development)
- 4: One residential special school upto 12th grade for the deaf in every State and one Degree College for the deaf in every zone (also under the Ministry of Human Resource Development)

Sir, the disability sector strongly feels these should be included in the upcoming Union Budget. We urge upon you to please consider this issue with the seriousness it deserves. We understand that these are busy times for you, but we would be very grateful if you could please give a few minutes

of your precious time so that a delegation of senior disability leaders can call upon you, in order to discuss this further.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Javed Abidi
Honorary Director, N.C.P.E.D.P.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee
Hon'ble Finance Minister
Room No. 132 C
North Block
New Delhi - 110 001