

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 last year regarding the non-implementation of the XIth Five Year Plan and our disappointment with the last Union Budget.

Sir, in a matter of a few weeks, the Union Budget for the year 2010-11 will be presented to the Nation. Historically, the issues concerning 70 million disabled people have always been pushed to the sidelines. However, the disability sector has been touched by the concern that you and Smt. Sonia Gandhi have shown towards disability. And it is with this faith that we are writing to you to request you to please ensure that disability is given its due in the upcoming Budget.

Sir, as you are aware, the XIth Five Year Plan has an entire chapter on disability issues. A copy is enclosed for your ready reference.

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 Plan is already halfway through and none of these promises have been implemented.

We urge upon you to please ensure that these are included in the upcoming Union Budget.

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.

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