

8th January, 2010

Dear Sir,

Heartiest greetings for a new and prosperous new year!

You may recall that a delegation of Disabled Rights Group (DRG) had met you in August last year and submitted a detailed representation on the sector's demand for a new and comprehensive legislation on disability that would reflect the letter and spirit of UNCRPD that India has ratified. Enclosed is a copy of the letter for your ready reference.

Sir, you had assured us that the Ministry will look at our demands closely and that you are in no hurry to get a half baked Bill passed by the Parliament.

You may also recall that I had another meeting with you in October inviting you for a National Consultation on the need for a new Disability Act. Under your instructions, Ministry officials attended the Consultation. The unanimous decision of the leadership at the Consultation was that any disability legislation should be based on UNCRPD and that the Disability Act of 1995 is archaic and seeped in charity. DRG is now taking this discussion to the Zonal level.

Sir, we once again reiterate that the Indian disability sector has tremendous hopes from you. We have been encouraged by the interest you have shown towards disability issues.

Recently, sections of the media have reported that the amendments (to the Disability Act of 1995) have been 'finalised' and that they have been sent to the Law Ministry. At the same time, no one knows what those amendments are and how are they different/better than the previous version which was put up on the Internet and circulated at the State Ministers' Conference. We have always maintained that whatever the government does should be done in an open and transparent manner. Therefore, we do expect your Ministry to share with us the current edition of the proposed amendments.

We are also concerned, as well as curious, as to why you/your Ministry have studiously ignored our demand for a new law. In fact, the larger truth is that the sector is now demanding not just a new

law but one new comprehensive disability law, in place of the current four.

We had a discussion with you on all these issues when we met you in August. You seemed to have a pretty open mind then. Now, it has been several months and we feel that we need to sit together and revisit the issues and understand properly as to what your current position is on these issues.

Sir, we would be grateful if you could give please us an appointment sometime soon so that our delegation can meet you and discuss this further.

Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Javed Abidi
Honorary Director, NCPEDP

**Shri Mukul Wasnik
Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment
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