



DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

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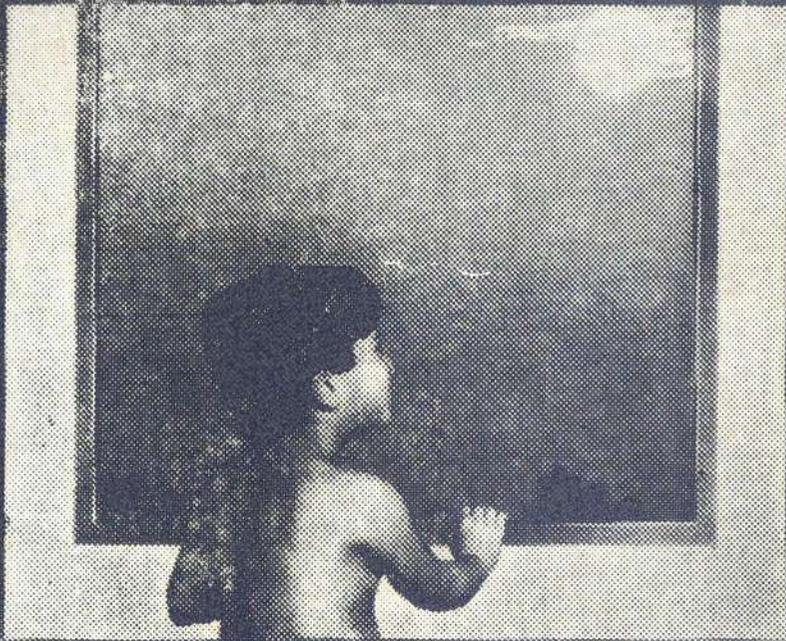
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ANNUAL DAY

18th June, 1989

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JUNE 14-1989

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that the Association is celebrating its 39th Annual Day on June 18, 1989. On this happy occasion I send my greetings and best wishes to all the members of our Association.

During the year just ended, some achievements have no doubt been recorded but I believe a great deal is yet required to be done particularly as our Building Project is yet to be launched. Let us hope, this starts taking shape during the current year.

While extending my best wishes to members, I regret my inability to have been of as much help as I wanted because of heavy official responsibilities. I however, assure members that their cause is dear to me and I shall do every thing possible to further it.

(Hari Krishna Shastri)

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of

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For the year 1988-89

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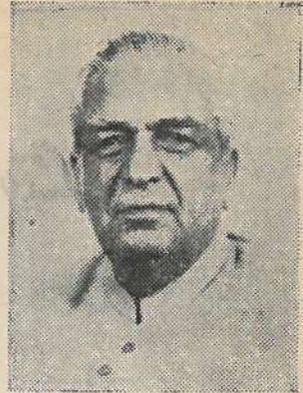
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MESSAGE

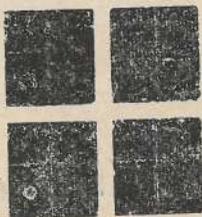
I am glad to know that the Delhi Association of the Deaf is bringing out a Souvenir [on the occasion of its 39th annual day being celebrated on June 18, 1989 at New Delhi.

Deaf can prove useful citizens if trained on proper lines. Special projects are being implemented to rehabilitate them by imparting them training to stand on their own. The confidence in their capabilities needs to be re-kindled in them to help them re-discover themselves and to make optimum use of their potentialities. The Association's efforts to help this less fortunate section of society are commendable and deserve all encouragement.

I wish the venture all success.

Devi Lal

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Hony. Secretary's Report

Distinguished Guests and Friends.

I welcome you to our 39th Anniversary celebrations. Your presence here is our reward for the hard work our members and office bearers have put in during the year. We feel highly inspired and encouraged to see you amidst us.

Otherwise, the year just ended has been full of challenges. We have had to face challenges on most fronts. Resources have always been our most serious problem. It continues to be so even to day. Avoidable delay in implementation of our building project for setting up Research & Rehabilitation Centre for the Deaf is literally giving us sleepless nights. The delay has been due to several reasons. Our request for enhancing F.A.R. from 115 to 140-150 due to allotment of a smaller plot than our entitlement, has still not been cleared by Delhi Development Authority even though our Chairman, Shri Hari Krishna Shastri was kind enough to take up the case with the Chairman, Delhi Development Authority, demi-officially.

The other problem relates to funds. While the project cost has been estimated around Rs. 35 lacs, we have not been able to raise even 35 thousand rupees. Our prayers have seemingly remained unanswered, our appeals have evoked only luke warm response. Neither we ourselves, nor our members who are either unemployed or at best ill-employed can ever hope to raise this kind of money on their own. We have, therefore, no choice but to beg for its so that the coming generation of the deaf, does not have to face the same ordeal as faced by us. It has to be noted that either due to the natural causes or illness and old age etc., there will always be deaf and we have, therefore, to provide for the future.

Unhappily for us, so little is known about the deaf. This ignorance has lost us public attention. More-over there being no visual disability in the deaf, they are denied the milk of human kindness, sympathy as well. While one's heart goes out to a blind or an orthopaedically handicapped, the vain attempt of a deaf to surmount the unsurmountable obstacle of communication gap, created by his inability to hear and speak, through signs and gestures evokes only derision. This is sad indeed because it is the knowledge of language that separates humans from animals and this essence of humanity, the knowledge of language, has been denied to the deaf because we have not yet created adequate numbers of educational institutions for them. In absence of formal education, they have per force to remain inarticulate and at the mercy of signs and gestures.

The growing number of unemployed among our ranks has also been our major concern. Our attempts to get suitable openings for members have not borne the desired fruit. The Employment Exchange for Physically Handicapped and Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled are there but not much help has been received by our member even when some of them have been on live registers of employment exchange for over 14 years. Self employment could have eased the situation but for some reasons instead of proportionate allotment of shops and kiosks among different categories of disabled persons, the deaf end up with receiving the least number of these shops and kiosks from the Directorate of Social Welfare, Delhi Administration.

We have been vainly trying to start adult education classes for our members and O.M. coaching classes for of our members who were able to land clerical posts in Government Offices and banks because of special recruitment drive launched by the Government on instructions from Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India. Every time we are frustrated because of want of suitable space. A room in any Government, M.C.D. or N.D.M.C. School

given to us in the evening hours when no Schools are operating can solve our problem but this goal remains as distant as ever.

Strange as it may sound, our own All India body, the All India Federation of the Deaf which we had launched with great fan fare some thirty years ago and nurtured and nourished it with a loving care, often meeting the entire financial commitment during the initial years, has added to our troubles. It has forced us to seek legal redress for the gross unconstitutional acts committed during its VI Congress held during December, 1988. All that we had wanted was that it should abide by its own constitution but this legitimate request was spurned out of hand leaving us no choice but to seek legal redress, this being a matter of principle for us.

It is indeed sad that two organisations of the deaf working for a common goal should be thus embroiled in a dispute. Unhappily for us, this has resulted from the fact that some normal hearing persons have taken over the All India body and do not seem to be concerned at all at the turn the events has taken. Be as it may, we bear no ill will against any one and only want that rule of the book should prevail and no individual however, highly placed have the last say which goes contrary to the constitutional provisions. Since the matter is subjudice, it is not for me to comment on the merit. It is however, emphasised that the decision to move the court was taken unanimously by over 250 members who had collected to celebrate New Years day at Nehru Park and was subsequently approved by the Executive Committee.

As has been said, the resources crunch has been a serious problem for us, with demand for funds growing day by day to meet the needs for an ever increasing membership, the income has always been less than expected. The situation was made from bad to worse due to non-release of grant-in-aid by the Delhi Administration for sports promotion for three years. Happily, the matter has been sorted out and the Association has since received grant-in-aid for sports amounting to Rs. 62,000/- odd for the year 1985-86 and 1987-1988. The Municipal Corporation has also kindly sanctioned a grant-in-aid of Rs. 10,000/-. This has taken care of our needs for Reading Room and Library and social services etc..

Now about the achievements for the year, as already advised last year, M/s Bhardwaj Bhardwaj & Associates very kindly prepared our building plans. We are most grateful to Shri Daksha Bhardwaj who took a personal interest in the matter. Mr. Minish Gupta who prepared our building plans under the direct guidance of Shri Daksha Bhardwaj has also earned our thanks. We now await green signal from Delhi Development Authority enhancing F.A.R. to submit our building plans.

M/s Chitra Advertising (P) Ltd. responding to our appeal for help in designing a folder, readily offered their services. We are indebted to them. If the folder has not yet been ready, the fault is ours as we have not been able to provide them with requisite material.

On the sports front, we did reasonably well. Though we could not participate in some national events as our funds had almost run out (we had to divert funds from our building project to meet expenditure on sports promotion) more or less we sent a strong Delhi State contingent to 12th National Games of the Deaf held at Jamshedpur, where our athletes did quite well. We also organised 17th Delhi Games of the Deaf in February, 1989 at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. which was made available to us free of charges.

In addition to the fore-going, we have been regularly meeting recreational needs of our members. Similarly, our Reading Room-cum-library has been proving very popular. We have been able to acquire new furniture and hope to add more books and journals during the coming year.

We have been acting as the ears for our members and lending their silent voice meaning and substance. We have been providing a link between our members and different Government and Semi-government agencies. Often we are called upon to mediate in family disputes also. We discharge our such obligations in all sincerity.

Because of our pre-occupation with our building project, we could not organise Holiday Camp for our members this year. Nor could an educational tour be arranged, We hope to remedy the situation soon.

It was my privilege to present my own and Association's views at the Advisory Committee meeting on Indian Sign Languages recently organised by All Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay. Nearly a dozen members from our Association also travelled to Bombay at their own cost to see video tapes on sign language and offer comments. This was highly appreciated.

Now with your permission, I would like to say some thing about our future projects. The top most priority is of course, to be given to our building project. We hope to get the Foundation stone laid some time in September/October, 1989 and start construction immediately there after. It is proposed to construct at least some rooms there immediately and start functioning from that location.

At the time of Foundation laying ceremony, it is also proposed to convene an International Convention of the Deaf. Steps are being taken in this regards. It is felt that sharing of views and exchange of ideas and experience on matters of mutual interest would be beneficial for all concerned. As it is, the different organisations of the adult deaf in particular have been living in isolation, each in its seperate cocoon. This has led to retardation of growth and acute dearth of new, ideas and initiative. Unfortunately, our leaders in All India bodies, on whom this responsibility (of bringing together different organisation of the deaf) have been ignoring it all these years. Their major interest has been in undertaking foreign jaunts at the cost of their institutions.

Our shop in Yashwant place, Chanakapuri, New Delhi has not been faring as well as expected. Funds, if ploughed in adequate quantity, can help improve performance and increase profitability. Some-how, funds will have to be raised to revamp its activities. We propose to do so during the current year.

I shall now conclude with the expression of our grateful thanks to all those who have helped and encouraged us. I shall begin by thanking you all who are present with us to day because your presence symbolises your personal participation and involvement in our activities. We are grateful

Our thanks are also due to Col. S.P. Wahi, Chairman, O.N.G.C., Shri L.C. Bhandari Shri Ravi Dubey, General Manager, The Taj Mahal Hotel, Sardar Daljit Singh, Chairman, Pure Drinks (New Delhi) Limited, Dr. V.S. Lal, and Shri Basil Egbert of Y.M.C.A., the Management of India International Centre, Shri V.P. Marwah of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and all other donors and advertisers who have all helped us in diverse ways, so we say thank you all.

I will conclude an a happy note. Our member and the founder of our predecessor, Deaf a Dumb Association, Shri M. Chukerbuti has been presented with a National Award for Outstanding Handicapped Employee by the Government of India. He has been with New Delhi Y.M.C.A for over 4 decades and become a part of this institution. We extend him all the good wishes. I may add that to serve the deaf is his passion and the sole mission in life. Such self-less workers for our cause are few and therefore, we treasure them. We request you all to join us in wishing this silent selfless worker a long life.

Jai Hind

D.S. CHAUHAN

AM ASHAMED AT MY ABJECT FAILURE :

B. N. Kaul

The Delhi Association of the Deaf, former Deaf & Dumb Association, Delhi is celebrating its 39th Anniversary. My association with this body dates back about 35 years. Now when I am in the evening of life and look on the total achievement of the deaf and dumb all these years, when the country experienced tremendous change and progress in so many fields, it seem to me shamefully insignificant. Actually the very conspicuous fact is the utter lack of any achievement, and any tangible improvement in the condition of these silent children of God in last four decades. The apathy towards them of Government and the Society at large continues as before. Added to the injury is the insult caused by some among those who pose as our leaders and use various deaf and dumb bodies for furtherance of their self-interests and for exploitation through corrupt practices.

There are few, very few educated among the deaf including my humble self, but we have failed more miserably than all others. For various reasons including that of our pre-occupation with the tough struggle of life, also lack of common purpose and common understanding of the problems and challenges facing the deaf, we have failed to stem the rot; failed to move the Government and society to do some thing real for the deaf, we have failed to inspire and lead; one reason apart from our short comings being our inability to remove the vested interests from their well-entrenched positions. I am personally very ashamed of this failure, though even now I would not concede my defeat. Not till last breath leaves my body.

Now look where we were four decades back and where we are today. This certainly is to me an introspection.

Then there existed few schools, government run and aided, some of which also imparted training in such crafts as weaving, carpentry, tailoring etc. Today also the facilities of education upto lower secondary class and elementary vocational training exist on the same level. Some more schools have been added because of multiplication of the population of deaf. The standards, if any thing, have gone down. Except few exceptions the so-called schools and craft centres lack even minimum facilities. What is more, they are inadequate and every year hundreds of deaf children fail to secure admission.

Even after forty one years of freedom there is not a single senior secondary school for the Deaf mutes in the whole of country, leave alone there being a college or a modern polytechnic for them. The kind of education and craft training they get does not make them suitable for even petty jobs. If still some of deaf manage to get a little more education privately or better vocational, training, it is because of their own fortitude and the ability of their parents to pay the heavy cost. Since only this is possible for well to do, the poor are left high and dry.

Only one training institution of some consequence which trains the deaf mutes for petty technicians jobs has been opened in Hyderabad. But only ten out of hundred candidates secure admission there. So you can see that basically the deaf-mutes are where they were forty years ago.

Speaking about poor, I would like to draw your attention to the most shocking part of the deaf-dumb. I have spoken and written on this subject but nobody has paid heed. The fact of the matter is that those who get 3 Rs level education and some training belong to either well to do or lower middle class people. Their parents are usually literate to well educated so they are able to break communication barrier, the toughest part of reclaiming a deaf child, and establish rapport with him. They form not more than 10 percent of the total population of the deaf mutes.

The rest, the ninety percent majority are born to illiterate, poor and superstitious parents, who because of ignorance and backwardness fail even to build any rapport with their deaf mute children. They get neither education nor craft training. Most of them are rendered mentally retarded, even suffer derangement and thus reduced to vegetable. They are rendered virtually destitute and live on alms, a very pitiful life. You can find such deaf-mute in their hundreds in slum and rural areas of Delhi itself. Reckon their plight in backward areas of Orissa, Bihar, Bengal, Rajasthan and elsewhere. So not the Government, the society and organised bodies of deaf and dumb owe any responsibility to these totally forsaken and most pitiful human beings. The tragic fact is that neither the Government nor the society has the understanding of real problems of the deaf and they are unable to do much. Then there is general apathy toward this big segment of the physically handicapped. The failure of the organised bodies of the deaf has only confounded the issue. Some bodies are doing good work and you can include our Association among them. But they face serious resources constraints and other obstacles. Then they are all local bodies, so they can not plan and execute a national strategy or programme.

There is of course the so-called All India Federation of The Deaf. I was one of its original sponsors alongwith a few educated deaf but we were shunted out even before inaugural session, because we could detect all the misuse of funds and abuse of powers by some politicians and their lackeys among the semi-educated deaf, who have always been paid office bearers of these bodies without doing any work. Some of them whose market value was not even be Rs 300/- to Rs 500/- and some of whom passed the retirement age long ago enjoy salaries and perks including free A Class accommodation apart from what they get through the well known methods of milking a cow. All they have to do is to act rubber stamps and do the bidding of their hearing bosses. The Federation has had only two Presidents, and Two General Secretaries including the present incumbents in the last 35 years.

The Federation is neither representative nor federated body. Our Association, the Mother of the Federation, has been virtually expelled for all practical purposes since myself and another well educated deaf were chosen President and General Secretary in an election held by secret ballot under the supervision of a lawyer appointed by the Court. In the last so-called VI Congress of Deaf, our elected delegates were debarred from all meetings and the elections, while no bodies from here and there who represent only themselves and they include the General Secretary and Treasurer of the Federation became delegates. Almost all organised and well run State Bodies of the Deaf with large membership have been excluded. The matter is pending before the Delhi High Court. So I shall not say more on the subject.

What actually the Federation (AIFD) is doing for the deaf, can be easily gauged by the following examples:

In the last year's budget AIFD allotted as much as Rs. 400/- for social uplift work and only Rs 40,000/- for foreign travel of its office bearers. Our protest letters did not fetch even one line acknowledgement.

THE AIFD ran a Lottery. Despite all our efforts we did not know what sort of Agreement it had with the Agent?. How much money the Federation got and on what this sum was spent?. What was the total sale of tickets? Another self style All India Body

never circulates balance sheets and annual reports on accounts and activities to its affiliated bodies. Atleast our Association has not been getting them and written requests for the same were ignored. The AIFD has socalled Printing Institute of the Deaf, for which machines were donated by some German.organisation. But since long years not a single deaf has been trained there. The 'Institute' is being run as a commercial Unit for the benefit of non-deafs. There is another bigger institute in the Institutional Area. Some deaf and a majority of non-deaf are employed there, but as far as I know there is on regular training programme. It has also become a commercial enterprise.

The AIFD has built a big hostel for the deaf and its bosses put it under a Trust. All our efforts to know how much was spent on the project, where the money came from and whether all accounts were rendered came to naught. The hostel is another big mystery. We have received complaints that non-deaf use it as a part of hostel as Dharamshala. At the time of the VI Congress, an African girl, a hearing and normal one, admitted she was a resident in the Hostel.

Indeed the whole affairs of the AIFD are such that should be probed by a Judicial Commission. This Hody has even failed to bring the real prolems of the deaf to the attention of the Government, leave alane trying to settica some of them itself. Under the circumstances how can the, problems be solved or even looked into. And I again confess my failure to prevent all this also attract the attention of the Government. Now 62, I don't know if I will see any tangihle paagress towards the solution of our problem before I breath my last.

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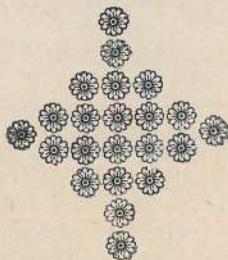
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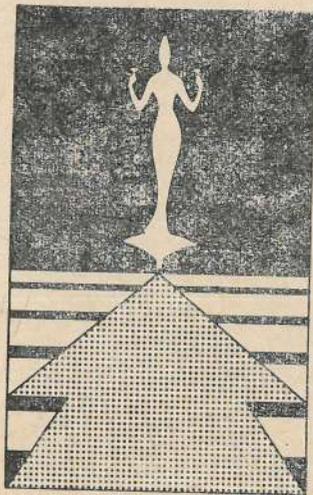
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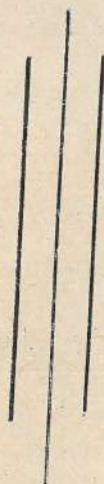
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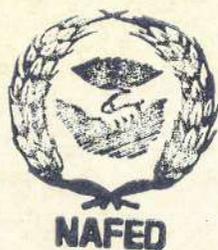
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Andamans	Bay Island	Gwalior	Usha Kiran Palace	New Delhi	Maurya Sheraton
Aurangabad	Rama International	Jodhpur	Umaid Bhawan Palace	Patna	Maurya-Patna
Bangalore	Windsor Manor	Kargil	Highlands	Srinagar	Gurkha Houseboats
Baroda	Vadodara	Khimsar	Royal Castle	Srinagar	Nedous
Bhavnagar	Nilambag Palace	Madras	Chola Sheraton	Madras	Sindoori Hotel— A Welcomgroup referral hotel
Bhutan	Hotel Druk	Madras	Park Sheraton		

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THE NATIONAL LEVEL FARMERS OWN ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF MARKETING AND EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE SINCE THREE DECADES

- * Undertakes marketing by Inter-State, Intra-State and international trade of all primary processed agricultural commodities to protect the interest of growers and consumers;
- * Agricultural commodities such as foodgrains, pulses, oils and oilseeds, cotton jute, tribal and forest produce, poultry, agricultural inputs, fresh, dry and processed fruits and vegetables are handled;
- * Undertakes export of all kinds of agricultural commodities, canalising agency for export of onion and import of fresh fruits;
- * Undertakes supply and distribution of essential commodities in the deficit areas and intervenes in the market to ensure fair prices to the consumers;
- * Undertakes Market Intervention Operations at times of distress sales and gluts in the market to ensure better return to the farmers;
- * The Nodal Agency for providing Price Support to the farmers for oilseeds, coarse grains and pulses.
- * Operates fruits and vegetable processing factories at Delhi, Vellore and Jabli. Also runs cold storage, godowns, Dal Mills and Oil processing units in the country.



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