



DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF



47th ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

**India International Centre,
40, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi**

31st, August, 1997

An Indian Classic



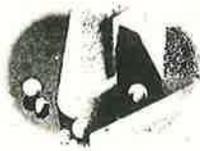
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नई दिल्ली - 110004

*President's Secretariat
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi-110004*

No.2-M/97

11th September, 1997

Dear Shri Chauhan,

The President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan is happy to know that the Delhi Association of the Deaf, New Delhi, is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence together with its 47th Annual Day by giving away the first Badhir Bandhu Award to a person who has made the magnificent contribution to the welfare of the Deaf.

The President sends his greetings and best wishes on the occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Satya Narayana Sahu

(S.N. Sahu)

Officer on Special Duty(R)

Shri D.S. Chauhan,
Hony. Secretary,
Delhi Association of the Deaf,
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S. Narendra
Information Advisor to PM

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नई दिल्ली-110 011
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
NEW DELHI-110 011

MESSAGE

Prime Minister is glad to know that Delhi Association of the Deaf is celebrating its 47th Annual day on August 31, 1997 in New Delhi and also bringing out a Souvenir on this occasion.

The Prime Minister sends his good wishes on this occasion.

(S. Narendra)

New Delhi

September 11, 1997

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संदेश

प्रसन्नता का विषय है कि दिल्ली बधिर सभा द्वारा स्वाधीनता की स्वर्ण जयंती के उपलक्ष्य में विविध कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन कर एक स्मारिका का प्रकाशन किया जा रहा है ।

मूक-बधिरों की सेवा एक पुनीत कार्य है । आज समाज में हमें इन वर्गों के प्रति जागरूकता लाने तथा सेवा भावना जाग्रत करने की आवश्यकता है । दिल्ली बधिर सभा द्वारा इस दिशा में किए जा रहे प्रयास सराहनीय हैं ।

मुझे आशा है कि स्मारिका के माध्यम से मूक-बधिरों के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी दी जाएगी ताकि लोग इनके प्रति संवेदनशील बन सकें ।

शुभकामनाओं सहित ।

(दिग्विजय सिंह)

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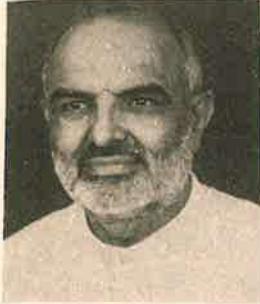
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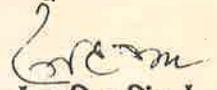


सन्देश

मुझे यह जानकर अत्यंत प्रसन्नता है कि स्वतंत्रता की स्वर्ण जयंती के उपलक्ष्य में दिल्ली बधिर सभा द्वारा बधिरों की निःस्वार्थ उत्कृष्ट सेवाओं के लिए श्री राजेन्द्र गुप्ता, परिवहन मंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार को इस वर्ष से शुरू किये गये बधिर बंधू सम्मान के लिए चुना गया है और इसी सन्दर्भ में 31 अगस्त, 1997 को इंडिया इंटरनेशनल सेंटर, नई दिल्ली में एक सार्वजनिक समारोह आयोजित किया जा रहा है।

यह और भी प्रसन्नता की बात है कि इस शुभ अवसर पर एक स्मारिका भी प्रकाशित की जा रही है। आशा है इसमें सभा की विभिन्न गतिविधियों का विस्तृत ब्योरा तथा श्री गुप्ता जी द्वारा बधिरों के कल्याण के लिए किए गए कार्यों का लेखा-जोखा होगा जिससे पाठक निस्संदेह लाभान्वित होंगे।

मैं, इस अवसर पर समस्त सभा-परिवार व श्री राजेन्द्र गुप्ता जी को बधाई देता हूँ तथा समारोह के सफल आयोजन की कामना करता हूँ।


साहिब सिंह

श्री देवी सिंह चौहान,
मानद सचिव,
दिल्ली बधिर सभा,
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CHAIRMAN
&
MANAGING DIRECTOR



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that on the occasion of the Association's 47 Annual Day, being celebrated on August 31, 1997, the 1st Badhir Bandhu Award will be presented to Shri Rajendra Kumar Gupta, Minister of Transport, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

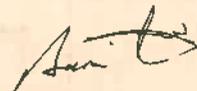
Shri Gupta has indeed made a praiseworthy contribution to the cause of the deaf people. Apart from raising funds for construction of the building for Association's Research & Rehabilitation Centre, he has helped deaf individuals in resolving their personal difficulties. In socio-economic rehabilitation of the deaf people too, he has made a rich contribution.

He has proved to be a tower of strength for all of us at the Association. His role in chalking out and implementing new programmes, monitoring different activities and attending to day to day affairs of the Association has been commendable. He is, therefore, the right choice for this Award.

I offer him my sincere congratulations.

About the Association, I would say that good progress is being made on all fronts. There are of course set backs and hurdles in smooth functioning, but these will certainly be overcome with the combined efforts from all of us.

On this occasion, I convey my greetings to all the members and wish them success in their laudable endeavours aimed at ameliorating the lot of deaf people.


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परिवहन मंत्री
TRANSPORT MINISTER
दिल्ली सरकार
GOVT. OF DELHI



MESSAGE

I learn with pleasure that Delhi Association of the Deaf will be celebrating its 47th Annual Day on August 31, 1997. The occasion should be used for introspection and for re-assessment of the work done so far.

It is good that the Association has covered a lot of ground but much, indeed very much yet remains to be done. This is because while some good work is being done for the education of deaf children, both by the Government and NGOs, not much is being done for training and placement of the adult deaf who are by the very nature of their twin physical disabilities incapable of meeting the challenge posed by an overcrowded unemployment market.

I, therefore, urge the Association and its members to make it their mission to attain the goal of total socio-economic rehabilitation of the deaf people and their participation as equals in the society.

I commend the good work done by the Association thus far and look forward to even better results during the coming days.

Rajendra Gupta
(RAJENDRA GUPTA)

Sh. D.S. Chauhan,
Hony. Secretary,
Delhi Association of the Deaf,
92, Kamla Market,
New Delhi.

बधिर बन्धु सम्मान 1996-97
श्री राजेन्द्र गुप्ता, परिवहन मंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार
को सादर समर्पित
प्रशस्ति

ईश्वर प्रदत्त वाक व श्रवण शक्तियों से वंचित, समाज और सरकार से उपेक्षित, अधिका के शिकार, अपने नाम तक से अनभिज्ञ, बधिरों का जीवन एक संघर्ष ही है। सहायता और सहयोग से अछूते, आप के तीव्र प्रतिबद्धता और बेरोजगारी के जमाने में बधिरों की स्थिति अत्यन्त दयनीय है। इन की सुध लेने वाला, सहायता करने वाला, भी दुर्लभ है।

समाज के इस अत्यन्त उपेक्षित अंग को अंगीकार कर, उसके दुख दर्दों का निवारण करने का बीड़ा उठाया है श्री राजेन्द्र कुमार गुप्ता ने जो विगत एक दशक से अधिक की अवधि से बधिरों की निस्वार्थ भाव से सेवा करते आए हैं और उनके आर्थिक सामाजिक पुर्नवास में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है।

बधिरों के सुख दुख में भागी, सहायता देने को सदा तत्पर, श्री गुप्ता ने अनेको बधिरों की व्यक्तिगत समस्याएं स्वयं हस्ताक्षेप कर के सुलझाई है। दिल्ली बधिर सभा से एक दशक से अधिक समय से सम्बन्धित, इन्होंने सभा के लिए दस लाख रु. से ज्यादा साधन जुटाए और दिल्ली की एक अन्य बधिरों की संस्था को तीन लाख रु. की सहायता उपलब्ध करवाई थी। इन्होंने सभा के सभी कार्य कलापों में सक्रिय व्यक्तिगत रुचि लेकर कार्यों का स्तर सुधारा है। चौहदवें राष्ट्रीय बधिर खेलों में रात के बारह बारह बजे तक स्वयं उपस्थित रह कर सारी व्यवस्थाएं सुचारू रूप से करवाई।

बधिरों के सामाजिक आर्थिक पुर्नवास को कृत संकल्प, इन्होंने कई बधिरों को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया है और अब दिल्ली के परिवहन मंत्री के रूप में श्री गुप्ता अपने विभागों और अन्यत्र बधिरों के लिए रोजगार जुटाने को प्रयत्नशील है।

स्वयं एक शिक्षाविद होने के कारण श्री गुप्ता बधिरों की शिक्षा में भी गहरी रुचि ले रहे है। स्थानीय राजकीय लेडी नायस माध्यमिक बधिर विद्यालय की सलाहकार समिति के अध्यक्ष के रूप में इन्होंने सराहनीय काम किया था। इस तरह बधिरों के प्रति अपने निःशुल्ल स्नेह से, निस्वार्थ सेवा से और बधिरों के लिए सराहनीय उपलब्धियां प्राप्त करने वाले श्री राजेन्द्र गुप्ता सचचे अर्थों में बधिर बन्धु है और दिल्ली बधिर सभा उन्हें बधिर बन्धु का यह सम्मान देकर स्वयं को गौरविन्त अनुभव करती है।

BADHIR BANDHU AWARD 1996-97
Presented to
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR GUPTA
Minister of Transport, Govt. of . Delhi

Neglected by the society and government alike, ignorant of their own name, deprived of facilities for education and training, the lives of the deaf are at best an ordeal. Absence of any type of support or co-operation, in this today's highly competitive world, the deaf have therefore, been placed at a very disadvantageous position indeed.

It is such a neglected section of the society, that Shri Rajendra Kumar Gupta took to his bosom, out of love and compassion. He has rendered meritorious services to the cause of the deaf and has made a commendable contribution to their socio-economic rehabilitation.

Always available, ever ready to help and share their pain as well as pleasure, Shri Gupta has resolved personal problems of a large number of deaf persons by taking a personal interest in their cause. Now associated with Delhi Association of the deaf for more than a decade, he has single handedly raised funds exceeding Rs 10 lacs. He has also assisted another local organisation of the deaf by raising for it over Rs 3 Lacs. He has always taken a keen personal interest in the affairs of the Association and has given its activities added impetus through his personal involvement. During the 14th National Games of the deaf, he not only raised requisite funds but saw to the smallest detail of arrangements personally by being up and about even upto mid-night.

Ever active for the socio-economic rehabilitation of the deaf, he had found gainful employment for several deaf persons. Now as the Minister of Transport, Government of Delhi he is busy creating more and more employment opportunities for the deaf in the undertakings and departments under his control. This will help in socio-economic rehabilitation of a fairly large number of deaf persons.

An educationist himself, Shri Gupta had also made some contribution to the improvement of the educational standards of Govt. Lady Noyce Sec School for the deaf through his brief association with it. By his love for the under privileged, his out going nature and ever willingness to help those in need, Shri Gupta is indeed a Badhir Bandhu. Therefore Delhi Association of the Deaf is honoring itself by presenting this Badhir Bandhu Award to Shri Gupta today.

Why Badhir Bandhu Award ?

"With a plethora of Awards, where was the need to institute yet another Award, that too with a paltry cash component of a mere 11,000/- Rs.?" is a question that is being asked frequently.

True enough. But then a desire to honour the benefactor is a part and parcel of Indian creed. Deaf persons are no exception. God knows, very few people, especially the able bodied take up the cause of the deaf. **Those who do take it, up, do so out of a desire to serve this neglected section of our society.**

These noble persons to be able to be helpful to deaf have to do a lot. They have to acquaint themselves with the problems faced by the deaf, learn their language - sign language actually, to establish personal contact, win the confidence of deaf persons who at the best of times are Doubting Thomases and then devote their, time, energies and often resources to do some thing positive and alleviate the sufferings of the deaf persons.

Surely such persons merit to be honoured, their contribution made known and lauded. Resources permitting, they should be presented with tokens of admiration, love and affection, which though only of symbolic and sentimental value are appreciated. Recipients rightly feel that their contribution is recognised. For a selfless workers, this recognition is reward enough, not that they hanker for it.

Another Reason

There is yet another reason. Due to communication gap arising from absence of linguistic skills among the deaf and near total absence of awareness among the masses about the cause of the deaf, very few persons, not directly involved with deaf as a family member, opt for the welfare work among the deaf. Therefore, it is necessary for the deaf, to go out of their way to attract potential welfare workers to their cause. And one way to do so is by instituting an Award, not as an inducement but as a mean for creating awareness.

Of course, it is not to imply that able bodied would rush forward for the sake of winning a symbolic Award and take up the forsaken cause of the deaf. In fact this is not so for the simple reason that such self less persons- God bless them, come forward with the sole desire to serve as has been made amply clear earlier. But by organising public functions for presenting even such symbolic Awards, awareness can be created among participants directly and among others by the means of publicity through print as well as electronic media. Such an awareness will prove beneficial for the cause of the Deaf, for once made aware, more and more people may come forward to champion the cause of the deaf.

Why Now?

Actually Association had been toying with idea of instituting such an Award since long. However, one thing or the other prevented us from giving the idea a concrete shape. Last year, the Association lost its Founder President, the late Shri Morris Chukerbuti. As will be seen from the accompanying write up, late Mr. Chukerbuti was a real Badhir Bandhu. The term Badhir Bandhu literally means brother of the deaf but the underlying true meaning is the saviour and protector of the Deaf. If there was a saviour or protector of Deaf, it was he. He lived for the deaf, worked for the deaf and readily extended assistance without waiting to be asked for help.

Public memory being short and even shorter for the deaf without linguistic skills, it was felt that the memory of late Mr. Chukerbuti deserved to be perpetuated so that others may derive inspiration and follow his example. And the easiest way, it was felt would be to institute a trophy to be awarded annually, in his memory. This way, at least he would be remembered annually.

A request was accordingly made to New Delhi YMCA serving which, late Mr. Chukerbuti had devoted entire life. Our boon was promptly granted and we received a beautiful Trophy for which we are thankful to New Delhi YMCA and its dynamic General Secretary Mr. Basil D. Egbert, who always has had a special place in our benign heart for the Deaf. Since the Trophy was too beautiful to be given empty, Association scrapped the metal and came up with a cash component of Rs. 11,000/- which it is hoped will be progressively raised to Rs. one lakh over the next few years.

The choice

Having a trophy and Rs. 11,000/- at our disposal, we next went about to make a right choice for the 1st Chukerbuti Bandhu Award. A circular was accordingly issued to all the organisations of the adult deaf, known welfare workers among the deaf and institutions for the Deaf soliciting nominations.

Though it was made quite clear that the Award was meant for persons rendering meritorious services to deaf several nominations were received seeking Award for self accomplishments. Then there were a number of nominations which were undersigned. Several nominations were received after the last date. All such nominations, therefore, had to be rejected. As this was the first occasion, such mistakes were to be expected, especially in view of the poor linguistic skills of the Deaf.

Of the 30 odd nominations found in order several were of a high order and the selection panel, comprising a leading advocate and Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, New Delhi found it difficult to make the right choice. Ultimately, the choice fell on Shri Rajendra Gupta. As the selection published elsewhere in the issue will show, he has indeed rendered services of a very high order. What ever, according to the panelist, clinched the choice in his favour was his capacity to serve the cause in future in more, over and above his past performance.

Since the Award will now be an annual feature and hopefully cash component will be raised from year to year, the future winners, from among those whose nominations were found a very high order), do not stand to lose anything. At least this is our outlook.

We now look forward to an even more eventful and praiseworthy presentation of the Award next year.

But?

There is a big BUT with a question mark. Will Association be able to honour its commitment annually with its dependence on others (read donors) for funds as Government assistance even for approved projects in which this Award is NOT is uncertain. Well, it may be so but Association has confidence in the good heartedness and generosity of its patrons who have never let it down so far and there is no reason to believe that they will turn their faces now.

Even otherwise, we at Association are aware of this Achilles Heel. However, next year's Award money has been taken care of. Efforts are underway to get some business house adopt and finance the Award. Simultaneously attempts are being made to build a corpus, place it in long term deposit and use the interest accrued annually for the Award.

Also at our Association, while the office bearers may change periodically, as these should in any democratic organisation, the commitments made are honoured by the successor. Therefore, the fears that the Award may be a nine days wonder are unfounded. Finally all of us at Association have unflinching faith in Him, who is certain to aid and assist us to carry on the good work being done. Amen!

**LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS
OF
DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
FOR THE YEARS 1995-97**

1.	CHAIRMAN	DR. BANSI DHAR
2.	VICE-CHAIRMAN	SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR GUPTA
3.	ADVISOR	SHRI SURYA PRAKASH PURI
4.	EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT	SHRI B.N. KAUL
5.	VICE-PRESIDENT	SHRI P.N. BAHL
6.	VICE-PRESIDENT	SHRI S.C.D. AGGARWAL
7.	HONY. SECRETARY	SHRI D.S. CHAUHAN
8.	HONY. TREASURER	SHRI RAJTV KUMAR SHARMA
9.	JOINT SECRETARY	SHRI JAIVIR SINGH
10.	JOINT SECRETARY	SHRI SAMIT K. KAPOOR
11.	SPORTS SECRETARY	SHRI WILSON MASSEY
12.	MEMBER EXECUTIVE	SHRI SUBHASH GUPTA
13.	- DO -	SHRI I.P. MEHTA
14.	- DO -	SHRI K.K. SHARMA
15.	- DO -	SHRI MANGE RAM SAINI
16.	- DO -	SHRI KAMAL MEHRA
17.	- DO -	SHRI NIMIT JAIN
18.	- DO -	SHRI ISHWAR DUTT

HONY. AUDITORS

SOOD & CO., CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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ANZ GRINDLAYS BANK p.l.c., ASAF ALI ROAD BR. N.D.
BANK OF BARODA, YASHWANT PLACE, NEW DELHI.

**OUR REHABILITATION
PROJECTS**

MOOK PREETI, 6-B YASHWANT PLACE, NEW DELHI

CYCLE STANDS AT

RAJGHAT, OPP. DLF, OPP. PLAZA & N.I.D.C.

DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (Regd.)

FACT-SHEET

ESTABLISHED: AS DEAF & DUMB ASSOCIATION, DELHI OCT. 4, 1950

RENAMED: DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF 1977
(On Merger of New Delhi Deaf & Dumb Club and Deaf Dumb Association, Delhi)

FOUNDED: ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF THE DEAF 1955

FOUNDER MEMBER: ALL INDIA SPORTS COUNCIL OF THE DEAF

VITAL STATISTICS:

LIFE MEMBERS: 1020

ANNUAL BUDGET: About RS. 5,00,000/-

FULL TIME PAID WORKERS: Twelve

REHABILITATION VENTURES: FIVE (FOUR CYCLE STANDS)
(at Rajghat, Connaught Place DLF Centre, Plaza and NIDC) and ONE SHOP "MOOK PREET" at Yashwant Place, New Delhi)

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Sports & Games, Recreation Educational Tours, Holiday Camps, Picnics & Functions, Cultural Activities, Education & Training, Library & Reading Room, Rehabilitational Assistance, Counselling & Guidance, inter-action with Government, Local Bodies, State Organisations etc.

STATUS: Recognised and financially assisted by State (Delhi) and Central Governments.

IMPORTANT PAST PRESIDENTS: Shri I.K. Gujral, Ms (Dr) Sushila Nayyar, Shri Hari Krishna Shastri etc.

NEW PROJECT: Rs. 100 lac RESEARCH & REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR THE DEAF. Foundation was laid on 9th April, 1995 and construction to start shortly. It will provide facilities to 100 students for Degree level education, advanced training in Computers, electronics, Information technology and produce video taped lessons design & publish text books for deaf etc.

MANAGEMENT: The Association has a dedicated and distinguished management headed by Chairman, Dr. Banshi Dhar a leading industrialist (Chairman & Managing Director DCM Shriram Industries Ltd. and immediate Past President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry. Shri Rajendra Kr. Gupta, Vice Chairman is Ex-Mayor of Delhi and currently Minister of Transport, Delhi. Shri B.N. Kaul himself deaf and a well-known author & journalist is the Executive President. Others on the Executive Committee are well educated deaf who have dedicated their lives to the uplift of the deaf.

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(D. S. CHAUHAN)

Hony. Secretary's Report

I have had the rare privilege of serving the Association for many a long year and I have been given the honour of presenting the Annual Report once again, for the twelfth consecutive year. Despite my short comings, which are many, it has been my endeavor to serve the best interests of the Association and its members. My task has been made easier, thanks to the erudite helmsmanship provided by our respected Chairman - Dr. Bansi Dharji and Vice Chairman, Shri Rajendra Kumarji Gutpa. Under their capable direction, the Association has made rapid progress. All of us at the Association are, therefore, indebted to them. Now I would like to acquaint you with the activities of the Association during the year 1996-97.

Building Construction:

As all of us are aware, Association has a plot of land of its own in Qutab Enclave, Behind Qutab Hotel, New Delhi. All the formalities relevant to Building Construction, including sanction of Building Plans by Municipal Corporation of Delhi having been successfully completed, by now construction should have commenced especially as the contract had been awarded after inviting tenders and Ground Breaking Ceremony performed on September 8, 1996. Unfortunately, due to non-cooperation of the contractor stalemate had been created. In the mean while, validity of Building Plans having lapsed, fresh sanction became necessary. This has since been applied for. Though the stalemate with the contractor continues, we are hopeful that matters will be sorted out and Association will be in a position to start construction, once the building plans are revalidated.

Paucity of funds unfortunately persists. Our Chairman and Vice-Chairman have been good enough to raise around Rs. 12 lacs between themselves. Our members, majority of whom live below the poverty line, have somehow contributed Rs. one lacs from their own pockets, by no means, a mean achievement. These funds alas are proving to be the proverbial drop in the ocean. Unhappily for us, the Central Government through its Welfare Ministry is sitting over the recommendations of Government of Delhi to sanction a construction grant of Rs. 7.5 lacs, these past 3 years and more. **Though donations to our project enjoy 100% exemption from Income Tax, due to the prevailing slump, we have not been able to raise any funds by way of donations from industrial houses.** As such the situation is quite grave indeed but we are hopeful and are continuing our efforts in keeping with our credo - 'We shall over come some day'.

It is kindly to be noted that while there are some educational facilities for deaf children, though these can not meet demand of even one percent deaf children of school going age, the training facilities available to the adult deaf are even less. In fact, **in the whole of India, there are just 3 training centres for the adult deaf**, two runs by NGOs, and the lone one managed by the Central Government. Between themselves these three can not provide training facilities for even a hundred deaf adults against the demand in thousands. **Hence it is imperative that Association's Centre is completed and made functional at the earliest.** In this we solicit your kind support.

Education & Training

Education and training form the back bone of our activities. Due to cramped space at our disposal, we have had to limit our training facilities to type writing, manual as well as electronic. Around 20 deaf matriculates receive training in type writing at a time in batches. After successful completion of training, trainees are helped in finding gainful employment as typists clerks. Association provides coaching for those attempting for Clerks' Grade examination. It is a matter of gratification that several deaf persons coached by us have been successful in their tests and secured Government service as LDCs'.

In addition, Sunday classes have been started through the kindness of our Vice-chairman Shri Guptaji who made space for the purpose available to us. Since religious instructions are not given in the schools, our Sunday school meets this requirement. Instructions are given in all religions, ethics, morals and language on which extra emphasis is placed because of the poor linguistic skills of the deaf.

Library- Reading Room

Both these services are very popular with our members, and are running successfully. We have nearly 3000 volumes in our library. However, due to paucity of funds we can only subscribe to a limited number of news papers and magazines. With a membership of over 1000, a few copies of these are found to be most inadequate. Also, financial constraints have come in our way in acquiring more, specially illustrated books, for our library. Books are even other wise a man's best friend. For the Deaf it is all the more so as because of their twin disabilities, books are for them the only source of information. Hence our emphasis on providing best facilities in our Library and Reading Room.

Computer Training:

A major step could be taken in the training of the adult deaf during the year by starting a Computer Training Centre for the Deaf. Thanks to the efforts of our Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation very kindly consented to sponsor the scheme and agreed to meet the expenditure on hardware as well as software and salary of the instructor for a period of two years. **The Association is, therefore, beholden to Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Foundation for this help.** Seven deaf trainees have already completed their four month long training, acquired proficiency and opened for themselves vistas for advancement by becoming value added. The Association is now trying to find jobs for them so as to ensure their socio-economic rehabilitation.

The next batch for the four month training course has been lined up. As very few deaf pass Matriculation examination, it has now been decided to enroll deaf who have passed Ninth Class. We are also shortly starting training Desk Top Printing.

Sports & Games:

Sports and games form an integral part of Association's activities. I am happy to state here that among our ranks is **Shri Satish Kumar, who is an Arjuna Awardee.**

During the year under review, apart from carrying on usual sports and games activities, Association successfully organised Silver Jubilee, 25th Delhi Games of the Deaf. It also sent 65 strong contingent to participate in the 18th National Games of the Deaf where Delhi secured the fifth position by winning 3 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals. Our foot ball team won the championship, while our boy wrestler Virendra Singh trounced wrestlers double his weight. Three of our members made it to the Indian contingent sent to participate in 18th World Games of the Deaf held in Denmark.

We had naturally appreciated these performances and had brought this to the kind notice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi with a request to reward such inspiring performances. Unhappily for us, there has been no response. **Such performances deserve to be recognized and rewarded. I request our Vice Chairman to use his good offices to get recognition for these achievements.**

Rehabilitational Assistance:

Association prides itself in its efforts and achievements in the field of socio-economic rehabilitation of the deaf people. With the appointment of a full time Officer Incharge exclusively to deal with the rehabilitational matters, good results have been achieved. Unfortunately, there are misconceptions about the deaf as workers and, therefore, people particularly in private sector are chary in employing the deaf and where ever we seek jobs for deaf workers, we meet with disappointment.

Our Chairman, set an example by employing a large number of deaf in his unit and their work and conduct has been found quite satisfactory. Some other employers of deaf in private sector include Escorts, Kelvinator, Whirpool etc, and Electronics Corpn., HMT, Hindustan Aeronotics etc. in the public sector.

It has to be stated here that being immune to noise pollution as also their inability to gossip, the on job concentration achieved by the deaf is unparalleled. Several work studies have been conducted and works ideally suited for the deaf have been identified. The need now is to recruit deaf against such posts as also in situations where due to high noise pollution, a normal person's work is adversely affected.

I would request our honorable Chief Guest Shri Binay Kumarji kindly to persuade his fellow industrialists and members of Punjab Haryana & Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry to give a fair chance to the deaf employment seekers.

Financial Position:

As already explained at the outset, the financial position of the Association can only be termed as precarious. This has taken a turn for worse because of the non-receipt of maintenance of grant of Rs. 81,886/- for the year 1996-97 duly recommended by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Delhi. Grant for the year 1997-98 is also awaited. In spite of numerous letters and personal visits, there is no sign of grant-in-aid so far.

To add to our sorrow, donations have also dried up. As a result it has become a problem to pay staff salaries as also meet expenditure involved on electricity, water, telephone etc. We have, some how managed so far, literally by scrapping the barrel but unless the grant-in-aid is forthcoming shortly, we will have to close up, which will be a pity indeed. There is, however, hardly any other choice before us.

Govt. Schools for the Deaf

Though Government spends lacs of rupees on running schools for the deaf, due to various factors, the standard of education is so poor that out of 36 students who appeared for the Secondary examination only two could barely pass. 90% the students secured less than 15 marks out of 100 in Hindi. Denied powers of speech and hearing, they have to depend solely on the education for acquiring linguistic skills. As the schools have not been able to impart them basic linguistic skills, their future has been jeopardized.

Our repeated requests to improve functioning of these schools have fallen on deaf ears. Letters on the subject sent to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Govt. of Delhi as also the Directorate of Social Welfare remain unacknowledged and unanswered. There is not even trained principal for the Govt. Lady Noyce Sec. School for the Deaf

The Association can not be a mute witness to this apathy towards the future of the deaf children. Before it resorts to an agitational approach, we request our Vice-Chairman Shri Guptaji, to use his good offices and standing in the Delhi Govt. to ensure better functioning of the School, more so as he being a part of the State Government, being one of its Ministers, it will not look nice if we agitate against a Government in which our own Vice-Chairman occupies an important position. But we can also not wait indefinitely for things to improve. Hence the request.

Membership:

I am happy to inform that our membership crossed the four figure mark and now stands at 1038. The Association has thus become the largest organisation of the adult deaf in the country. In fact, our name Delhi Association of the Deaf is a misnomer. It does not do full justice to us. Our members are spread all over the country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Assam. The bulk however, hail from Delhi. With such a large membership, the Association of a necessity requires corresponding staff, space and resources to look after the large number of members and related activities. We are trying to augment resources and hope that something will be done shortly.

Badhir Bandhu Award:

Now the most notable achievement of the Association -- institution and presentation of **Badhir Bandhu Award**. Though it does not form the part of the previous year, it is too good to be left over for the coverage in the next year's report.

During the previous year we lost our Founder President Shri Morris Chukerbuti. His was a life devoted to the cause of the deaf. Since we were in no position to take adequate steps to perpetuate the memory of this selfless worker for the cause of the deaf, we approach New Delhi Y.M.C.A. , his employers and requested them to institute a trophy in the memory of the late Shri Chukerbuti. **Mr. Basil D. Egbert, General Secretary, New Delhi Y.M.C.A. who has always had a soft corner in his benign heart for the deaf readily agreed and presented us a very beautiful trophy.** We were so taken up by the beauty of the trophy that we decided against presenting it without a financial component to go with it. Though ourselves are starved for funds, we decided to contribute a sum of Rs. 11,000/- to begin with to go along with the trophy and also to name it **Badhir Bandhu Award**.

This done, nominations were invited from all over the country. Thirty nominations were received in all and were examined by a panel of judges constituted for the purpose. After going through the nominations, some of which were for services rendered of a very high order, the unanimous choice was for Shri Rajendra Kumar Gupta because his services to the cause of the deaf as spelled out in the Citation were of very high order. The fact that he occupies a position where he can do maximum good to the maximum numbers during the coming days clinched the issue in his favour. We realize that through this Award we are offering only a **token tribute, like Sudama's rice to Lord Krishna.** It is gratifying that Shri Gupta ji has very graciously honoured us by accepting our small token of love, affection and respect. We are most grateful.

Lastly, I express my own indebtedness to all of you who have come to grace our function, as also all who have contributed to the success of these celebrations, especially **Shri N. N. Vohra, then Director, India International Centre** who very kindly allowed free use of the auditorium and **Shri Basil D. Egbert and New Delhi Y.M.C.A.** who presented the trophy which inspired us to institute Badhir Bandhu Award. So I conclude by thanking them all.

My Friend "M" Or Two Fingers Placed Horizontally on Throat

No, he was no Red Indian. My friend was Indian. He owed his names, if you can call them so, to our Sign Language. Rarely do deaf call on acquaintance, normal or a fellow deaf, by name. They do not know it. This leads them to signs. In other words, they adopt a sign to be used in place of a person's name. All of us, without any exception, have our signs for a name. It is so much easier too. While names may, and are common to several persons, not our signs. Each has his or her own exclusive sign. These are aptly chosen, so that there never is any repetition or duplication. Some ingenuity this!

Origin of the sign - two fingers placed horizontally on throat for the late Mr. Morris Chukerbuti is quite simple really. He being England returned, also educated in England, was the only one amongst us to wear bow-ties. And how does a bow tie look? Just like two fingers placed on throat. Hence his sign. It is as simple as that. So this sign once given to him, stuck for life.

He also had an alias-just M, signed by placing three middle fingers on the palm, the 'M' in the, two handed British Finger Alphabet. Thus, we had the choice of two signs for him a rare privilege, which no one else enjoyed, but the universally favourite one was "two fingers placed horizontally on throat."

First Meeting & Life Long friendship

Our first meeting was at the then Heckman's Grand Hotel, Mussoorie, where both of us had gone to attend the first Seminar convened by the Government of India, Ministry of Social Welfare, to discuss the problems vis-à-vis education, training and rehabilitation of the disabled persons. The year was 1954. We both represented two different Delhi based organisations of the Deaf. Why? I came to know much later.

I had just been transported from the arid land of Rajasthan to Delhi and was immediately selected to represent this Association at the Seminar, perhaps because of my academic record. The added qualification may have been my ability to speak fluently. Be as it may, I was there, in borrowed feathers, as I had no time to get a woollen ward robe, to play a role, that of spokesman for lacs of the country's deaf. I played the role to the hilt and naturally attracted notice, including that of late Mr. Chukerbuti.

Back in Delhi, we cemented our friendship further. As it happened, we worked next door to each other - he at the YMCA and I at the old Town Hall of New Delhi Municipal Committee. So meeting daily was no problem. Later as it happened in the case of the late Mr. Chukerbuti earlier, I too was made to leave the Association, for like him, I was also seen a threat to the then powers that had been at the helm of affairs of the Association.

The Real Story

Finding me at loose ends, it was late Mr. Chukerbuti who made me come out of the shell and work for the welfare of the deaf with him. So we joined hands. Though we had been friend for a couple of years before resolving to work together, it was only after this that I came to know the true story, which he was reluctant to tell.

And the story was that soon after completing his studies in London, Mr. Chukerbuti had returned to India and joined the YMCA. Being fluent in English, (he could write excellent English) and having had some experience of the working of the British Deaf Associations, he took initiative in forming Deaf & Dumb Association, Delhi of which he was unanimously chosen President.

Thereafter, with the active help and support of YMCA which was readily forthcoming thanks to Mr. Chukerbuti's good offices, Association started conducting its activities efficiently. Though never of an over bearing nature, his status, also English habits and behaviour (he had been in the U.K. studying for over ten years) and standing as the President, secured him pre eminent status, which some others could not stomach. Being new in Delhi, where as other members had been born, brought up and educated in Delhi itself and had developed close affinity amongst themselves, he was soon voted out from the Association. Not enamoured to post, he gladly withdrew but continued to help the deaf in his own way.

Scion of Illustrious Family

Born on 03.07.1919, Mr. Chukerbuti was a scion of a famous family. His father late Col. J.C. Chukerbuti was in the Army, said to have been among the first Indian to be commissioned. Born deaf, his father spared no expenditure for his education. First sent to Madras (now Chennai) after completing his studies there, he sailed to the UK and remained there for many a long year, returning only after completing his studies to join YMCA as already stated.

And how did he help the deaf ? One had only to approach him. He was a well known and respected figure in our deaf community. His fame had spread far and wide. So help seekers constantly knocked at his doors. His very first act towards these help seekers, often total strangers, was to offer them tea and eatables. That done, he would enquire about his needs, qualifications, skill and expertise etc. and then draw up an application, on a piece of paper which he always carried in his pocket.

That done, the man in tow, he would either cycle to, or ride a bus to some known industrialist and he knew many, thanks to his association with YMCA, plead the case of person so forcefully that it was difficult to refuse him. In this manner, without the benefit of an organisation at his back, he found employment for dozens of deaf persons. He thus become a one man organisation.

Plays Greater Role

The good work that he was doing could not remain un-noticed for long. Another organisation of the Deaf in Delhi sought him out, made him its President and began to utilise his services. He took me along and both of us working together, did a lot for the welfare of the Deaf. His approach was always direct. Corner the lion in his den by walking straight in and placing the cause for sympathetic consideration. So persuasive was he (even though he could not speak, he used writing as his weapon) that not many could refuse the boon asked for.

His work won international recognition and he was invited by the USSR Society for the Deaf. He visited USSR for over 4 weeks, studied the educational, training and rehabilitational facilities and was greatly impressed by the facilities provided to the aged and infirm deaf people there. During our almost daily meetings in the lounge of now demolished YMCA, he could 'talk' for hours about the conditions of the deaf in the U.K. and the U.S.A. and would bemoan the lot of deaf in India.

Statesmen, bureaucrats, industrialists, he new then all. Unassuming and self-effacing, he obtained nothing for himself from these high connections but never hesitated from seeking help for his fellow sufferers - the deaf. Unhappily, once again, his these very high qualities and the good results that he was achieving became his undoing. Others in the organisation became jealous and manipulated things in such a manner that it became difficult for him to work there and still retain his self respect. Therefore, he left the organisation, chose his self respect. I had also left much earlier. But we, as before continued to be friends, more so now that we did not owe loyalty to any organisation.

Full Circle

While Mr. Chukerbuti, a one man organisation, continued to do good work, helping others, guiding and advising yet others, circumstances turned the tide and in 1971, I had to return to this Association, then re-christened, Delhi Association of the Deaf, which I had left in 1956. This was essentially a fall out of the Janata experiment on the political front which had brought politicians of different shades together. As in our case there were no politics and at best ego clashes, the matters were soon sorted out, and all joined hands for the greater good of the deaf.

For the first few years, I had to find my feet in the new set up. Having done that, I persuaded Mr. Chukerbuti to return to the Association which he had helped found. Not one to need too much urging, his heart being in the right place, he re-joined us at the Association in 1980 and since then upto his sad death, he was a tower of strength for us all.

In the last few years of his life, he had slowed down a bit. Perhaps it was his age, perhaps it was emergence of so many new faces in the organisation or perhaps it was his simple desire to let those whom he had trained shoulder the mentle, that he progressively withdrew from active participation in various activities of the Association. However, he was always available for consultations or for help in the need of the hour. It is a matter of satisfaction that though he did not accept any post, he had returned to his Association and served it to the last day.

Best Human Attributes

Friendly, of an out going nature and totally unassuming, he could disarm others through the sheer force of logic. He was one of the most well informed persons among our deaf community and was admired no end for his ability to make friends equally well with high as well as low. For him friend was a friend, was a friend. There was no distinction. He thus had in himself, some of the best human attributes which won him the coveted National Award for the Best Handicapped Employee as well.

The void created by his departure shall be difficult to fill. He was a true Badhir Bandhu. Opting to remain single so as to be able to serve the deaf all the better, he regarded the deaf community as his family. He had no enemies. Even those who had manipulated matters against him were forgiven. Ever ready to help others, the like of him are rare indeed.

I consider it my good fortune that he counted me amongst his friends. He worked all through his life for the welfare of the deaf. An out of ordinary, or let us say, an extra-ordinary person, he espoused the cause of the deaf through out his life. No task, if it related to welfare of the deaf was too big or too small for him.

He had a large circle of friends. He valued friendship and had good feelings even against those who may have opposed him. He never bore ill will towards any one at least not for long. After life long service to the cause of the deaf he left for his heavenly abode last year, living behind a lot of grieving hearts.

Our only prayer now is that since he had laboured through out his life for a noble cause i.e. service of the deaf may God grant him eternal peace. Amen!

(D. S. CHAUHAN)

Morris Chukerbuti - A Life Sketch

Morris Chukerbuti was born on 3 July 1918. He was son of Col. J C Chukerbuti (Indian Medical Service). It was at the tender age of two years that he became d after an illness. After consulting eminent Harley Street ENI Specialists in the UK, Morris was admitted to the Dene Hollow School for the Deaf in Sussex and then to the Royal School for the Deaf in Kent in England. He took part in all games and was captain of the school cricket team.

While he was in the UK his local guardian was Mr James Aiman who later became General Secretary of the New Delhi YMCA. As World War II was eminent Morris returned to India in 1939. After the parting away of both his parents, Mr James Aiman asked him to join the New Delhi YMCA in 1944 where he worked as a General Assistant. He was the founder President of the Delhi Association of the Deaf and also Hony. General Secretary of the All India Deaf Sports Association. He even visited Russia as a member of a delegation of handicapped persons.

In 1989 Morris was awarded the prestigious National Award from the President of India, Mr R Venkataraman for his untiring efforts to help the handicapped particularly deaf and dumb.

To those associated with the New Delhi YMCA and for the innumerable guests at the Tourist Hostel, Morris was a popular figure. He never allowed the fact that he could not speak or hear to get in his way. Such was the prowess of his communication skills that he would be the first one to individually acquaint himself with any YMCA guest. It was obvious that YMCA was not a job for him but an integral part of his personality.

He served the New Delhi YMCA with great dedication and devotion for 51 years. In the early hours of June 3, 1995, following a brief illness Morris passed away peacefully at the St Stephen's Hospital after leading a life of dignity, self-respect and self-reliance and after rendering a life time of service to his fellowmen.

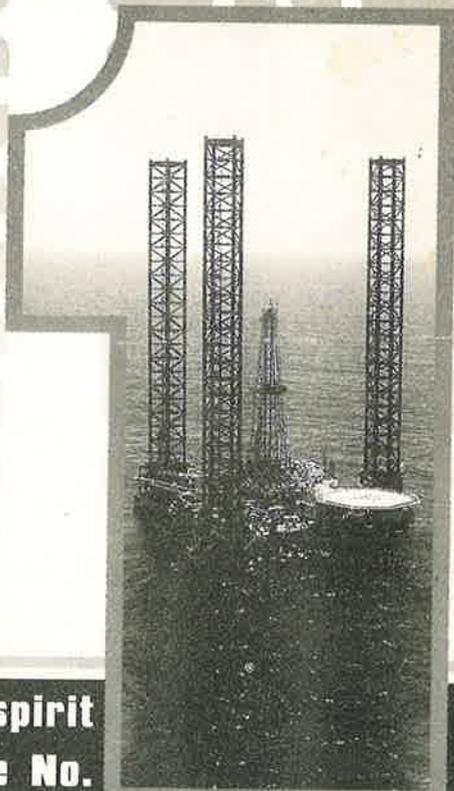
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Welcome Address by Dr. Surya Prakash Puri, Ex. MP. Advisor.



Shri D.S. Chauhan, Hony. Secy. presenting 47th Annual Report.



Bouquet being presented to Mrs. and Gen. M.N. Batra (Retd.)



Shri Mohinder Singh Advocate delivering Vote of Thanks address.

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PHD C

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behalf

his address.



Badhir Bandhu Trophy being presented to Shri Rajendra Kr. Gupta by Shri Binay Kumar, President PHD CCI.



Replica of Trophy being presented to Shri Rajendra Kumar Gupta by Lt. Gen. M.N. Batra (Retd.)

enting 47th



Bouquet being presented to Shri Rajendra Kumar Gupta, Minister of Transport, Govt. of Delhi.



Shri Binay Kumar President, PHD CCI delivering his address.

ing Vote of



A memento being presented to Shri Binay Kumar on behalf of the Association



Lt. Gen. M.N. Batra (Retd) presenting best sports promoter Trophy to Shri Lalit Thakur.



There's another story Beyond our Balance Sheet.

For us at Bharat Petroleum, profits are not the end of the story. People also play an important part. That's why we're involved in various public service programmes.

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Comparative Statement of Concessions Available to the Disabled Persons

S.No.	Type of Concession	Quantum of Concession available to		
		<u>Visually Handicapped</u>	<u>Orthopaedically Handicapped</u>	<u>Hearing Handicapped</u>
1.	Railway Fare	75% with free escort	75% with free escort	50% (To deaf who is also dumb only)
2.	Air Fare	50%	Nil	Nil
3.	Conveyance Allowances To Central/State Govt./ Public Sector employees.	Rs. 100 PM	Rs. 100 PM	Nil
4.	Unemployment Allowances	Paid quantum not known	Not known	Not paid
5.	Petrol Subsidy	No	Yes	No
6.	Postal Concession	Blind literature post free	Nil	Nil
7.	Telecom	50% of normal rental -Priority allotment	Nil	Nil
8.	Allotment of STD/ISD Booths	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
9.	Custom Concession	Available	Available	Available
10.	Income Tax Rebate	Admissible upto Rs. 40,000/- PA	Admissible upto Rs. 40,000/- PA	Admissible upto Rs. 40,000/- PA
11.	Allotment of LPG retailorships	Only Kerosene LDO dealership	LPG, Kerosene LDO dealership	LPG Kerosene LDO dealership
12.	Reservation of jobs	1%	1%	1%

Facilities/Concessions Available to the Deaf

Railway Concession:

Railway allow 50% fare concession for travel by Mail/Express trains in II class, sleeper class, I class and AC class (restricted to half the 1st class fare) to those who are deaf as well as dumb (both afflictions in the same person). Production of a photocopy of a certificate issued by a Government Doctor. The certificate is valid for 3 years and has to be renewed there after. The prescribed certificate for availing the concession is given over leaf.

(1)
Concession Certificate
(APPENDIX 1/47)
 (See Rule 101, Serial No. 28)

Form for the purpose of issue of rail concession to
 Totally Deaf & Dumb persons (both afflictions
 together in the same person) to be used by the
 Government Doctor.

This is to certify that Shri/Smt/Miss.

whose particulars are furnished below, is totally
 Deaf & Dumb person.

Particulars of the totally Deaf & Dumb Person:

(a) Age _____ (b) Sex _____

(c) Personal identification marks

(1) _____ (2) _____

(d) Signature of left hand thumb impression of
 the totally deaf & dumb Person.

(e) Causes of loss of listening and speaking power

Place _____

Dated _____

 Signature of
 Government Doctor

Seal/Stamp of
 Hospital

Note:-

(1) The Certificate is valid for 3 years from the date of
 issue. A photostat copy or a copy of this certificate
 duly attested by a Gazetted Officer, a Magistrate or a
 Member of Parliament or State Legislature shall also
 be accepted for the purpose of grant of concession.
 The certificate in original may, however, be produced
 for inspection at the time of purchase of concessional
 tickets.

(2) No alteration in the form is permitted unless attest-
 ed by the Issuing Officer.

(3) This certificate should be issued to totally deaf
 & dumb person (both affliction together in the same
 person)

Bus Travel:

As per the report of Ministry of Welfare the following States provide Free/concessional fare facility for travel on State Roadways buses. The veracity of the report is not guaranteed as most States allow free/concessional fare facility only to orthopaedically and visually handicapped persons: A.P. (free travel in city & sub-urban buses and 50 per cent concession in other buses), U.T. Chandigarh. (Blinds free, 50% to others) Delhi Free (in city buses only), Jammu & Kashmir (free bus travel), Kerala (free travel on bus/boat), Maharashtra (75% concession), Manipur (free travel on bus), Nagaland (free bus travel), Orissa (free bus travel), Pondicherry (free bus travel) Punjab (50% fare concession), Tamil Nadu (free bus travel), Tripura (free bus travel) Uttar Pradesh (free bus travel) and West Bengal (free travel)

However, it is a fact that visually and orthopaedically handicapped persons are allowed the concessional fare, its availability to the deaf is doubtful as most States have not extended this facility to the deaf. Also, it has to be remembered that each State accords this facility only to its own bonafied state-subjects and not to the disabled persons from other States. Also the concession is available for travel within the State.

Job Reservation: 1% posts in Central/State Governments, Public Sector units is available to the Deaf only in the same class posts i.e. that of peons/L.D.Cs etc.

Loan Facility: Loans upto Rs. 6500 are available @ 4% for starting self-employment projects from nationalised banks. These are repayable upto 5 years. Loans upto 2 lacs can also be availed for specified projects. A rebate of 1/2 % will be allowed on prevailing interest rates.

Allotment of Shops/Kiosks/Houses: Several Governments including Delhi allots or reserves a certain percentage of shops, kiosks, built up houses, plots to handicapped persons. Details may be had from the Director of Social Welfare of the State concerned.

Purchase of Hearing Aid: While hearing aids are distributed free under certain terms or conditions by ENT Depts. of various big hospitals in metropolitan cities to those who have residual hearing, loans can also be availed for purchasing a hearing aid of own choice. For details, contact, Director Social Welfare of State concerned.

Old Age Pension/Widows Pensions: Such schemes are available in most States. Deaf are also eligible. There is no separate scheme for them. Details can be had from the Director of Social Welfare of the State concerned.

Scholarships: Several State Governments grant scholarships to deaf students. The amount varies from State to State. Scholarship will be granted to only regular students of a recognised School.

Disability Pension: To our knowledge only Haryana and Himachal Pradesh give disability pension to deaf persons.

Unemployment Allowances: So far, no State has sanctioned unemployment allowances to deaf persons registered with employment exchanges.

Upper Age Limit: For employment in Government service, a relaxation of 10 years is available to deaf persons.

Income Tax Exemption: A deduction of Rs. 40,000/- over and above other admissible deductions is available to the deaf on production of disability certificate before the assessing Income Tax Officer.

Allotment of LPG, Kerosene, LDO Oil dealerships: Certain reservation exists for allotment of such dealerships for the deaf persons.

It is, however, a painful fact that while these and several other provisions do exist, deaf have not been able to avail of these facilities/concessions to the fullest extent due to their poor knowledge, lack of linguistic skills and the inaction of their Associations and Societies. It is now for the deaf people to determine whether they are to fight amongst themselves, as they have been doing for the past 50 years, fragment their efforts, squander opportunities and continue to suffer for the next 50 more years.

The alternative is also in their hand. And that is a unified action after getting rid of self-servers who have exploited the cause of the deaf for personal ends, take reins in their own hands and march collectively towards a better and brighter future.

Let us sit up, review the situation and take a decision for the greater good of greater numbers of the deaf.

And one last thing. Government only knows the language of strength. We have our rights. We can claim them and not go a begging for small crumbs. But unless we unite and work with a will and determination, there is just no hope and no possibility of taking on the Government to win our right.

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in everybody's
LIFE.



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Deaf - In Golden Jubilee Year of India's Independence

In the fifty years of freedom, India has undoubtedly taken big strides on most fronts. What ever be the field - agriculture, education, science and technology, industrial development or economic growth remarkable progress has been recorded. It is of course, unfortunate that a better part of our population still lives below the poverty line. For this our politicians blame population explosion forgetting that people are a country's best asset and only need to be put to productive uses to reap a rich harvest.

However, while the prevailing poverty justly or unjustly can be laid at the doors of population explosion, the stagnating conditions of the deaf can hardly be ascribed to the increase in their numbers. In fact, with the marvels of modern science and technology, as also new finds on the medical front both curative and preventive, incidence of deafness, should have been brought down.

Unhappily for the deaf neither new finds in the fields of medicines, nor science and technology have helped them in improving their lot. They continue to suffer, often due to willful neglect and seldom due to the ignorance of those entrusted with the task of their education, training and rehabilitation. **Then there are those, who taking advantage of the abysmally low linguistic skills of the deaf, exploit their cause shamelessly in the guise of their do gooders.**

Some Improvement - Yes

Of course, there has been some improvement. This can not be denied. For one thing, there are more schools for the deaf in the country. At the time India won its Independence, there were hardly 100 schools. Now there are nearly three hundred fifty, registering a growth of more than two fold. **Alas in real terms it works out to just five more schools per year for a vast country like India. Hardly a re-assuring scenario.**

Then too while at the time of Independence the highest level of education available to the deaf was fifth class or primary level, now there are **HALF A DOZEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS** for the Deaf in the country. **So now deaf have the pleasure of showing themselves as Matric failed. A big leap indeed from V passed to Matric failed.** But has it has been worth while? **The linguistic skills of today's Matric failed or for that matter Matric passed are no better than that of the fifth passed of yore.** And the pass percentage? If the results over the past few years of the local Government Lady Noyce Secondary School for the Deaf is any indication **hardly one in eighteen students achieved success in their Matriculation examinations.** So while the educational facilities have no doubt been upgraded, there is a marked slide down or should it be slump, in the standards. As for College education, as per Government's thinking the deaf do not need it, for never has any attempt been made to open one. It has also to be remembered that bulk of these three hundred fifty odd schools for the deaf are run and managed by NGOs either on their own or with the meagre financial support from the Government. And how do these schools managed by NGOs function? An example comes to my mind.

Some years ago, we happened to be in Srinagar, Kashmir. The Director, Social Welfare there at the time was a noble soul but quite ignorant of the special techniques used for deaf education. Taking advantage of our presence there he took us to the lone school for the Deaf in Srinagar, the only one in the whole of the State of Jammu & Kashmir, only to find that as against the strength of six teachers and 60 students shown for securing grant - there was just one teacher that too untrained and barely ten students. There was hardly any academic activity.

Thus school become means for availing grants and mis-appropriating them. Of course, this is not to imply that all NGOs render similar (self) service. There are good, also large number of exceptions. But the point is black sheep are there and they do more harm than good to the cause of the Deaf.

In Training Too

After the education, which naturally is the pre-eminent requirement, without which a person born deaf remains unaware of his/her very name and a grunting animal in human shape, it is the training that makes or mars the life of a deaf person. **At the time of Independence, there was just no training institute of the Deaf in the whole of India.** At that time the only training available was mainly in tailoring or other such manual crafts which was imparted more often than not by fellow deaf craftsmen. Now the country can boast of **ONE Government Training Centre for the Adult Deaf** to cater to the needs of thousands adult deaf. Located at Hyderabad, it can only cater to the needs of a bare hundred odd deaf adults at a time. There has thus been a cent per cent or even more growth in the training facilities for the Deaf in the post Independence era, reasons enough to rejoice and be happy. But is it really so? We shall see.

Then of course there are two other training centres for adult deaf run and managed by NGOs. It is altogether a different matter that starved of funds (Government pays a pittance by way of grant-in-aid calculated on pay scales as low as Rs. 1400 (all inclusive) for graduate Office Assistant and with such low salaries how can services of good experienced staff be obtained?), they remain mere show pieces. But then Indian deaf can boast of Three training Centres. What more do they need? I.I.Ts and I.T.I.s ? Forget them. Deaf must learn to be satisfied with the crumbs thrown before them. Also, is it not progress that where there was none, now there are at least three training centres for adult deaf, what if country is vast and deaf numbers in lacs? Again a threefold growth. But apparently it is difficult to satisfy greedy people.

In Rehabilitation Services Too

In rehabilitational services too, there has been remarkable progress, even if the ungrateful deaf may not admit it. Government has opened Special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped. Has it not? What does it matter if for the staff employed there, deaf communications are all Greek? What are the relations for, if they can not accompany their deaf relative to the Special Employment Exchange for completion of formalities? Why bother the staff there? And some people, particularly deaf show no patience. What if even 12 years after registration no job can be found for them, why blame the Employment Exchange? They can wait a few more years - can't they? Fear of becoming over age? Can it be helped? They (Exchanges) are doing their best. Then also there are Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for the Physically Handicapped. These too are post - Independence creations and if their reports are to be believed, the problem of unemployment has been nearly solved. At least on the paper.

And has not Government provided 3% reservation in Government services for the physically handicapped persons including 1% reservation for the deaf? They have just to qualify and the job is theirs. Yet these ungrateful people go to any extent to find fault. If they could not pass Matric, why blame Employment Exchanges or Vocational Rehabilitation Centres? Government has discharged its duties - opened Employment Exchanges, Vocational Rehabilitation Centres and also provided for 1% reservation. If they (deaf) still can not find a suitable job, the fault is their own.

Fringe Benefits Too

In fact, if Government is to be believed it has done more than was necessary. In addition to creating 'excellent' facilities for education, training and rehabilitation, it has gone out of way to help the disabled persons - including the deaf and all these steps have been taken in the post - Independence era.

Among the fringe benefits given are : concessional fare facility for travel by Railways, special allotment of shops/kiosks, free or subsidised supply of hearing aids, grant-in-aid to NGOs, National Awards for Best Handicapped Employee (Employer), Income Tax Concessions, allotment of LPG dealerships, telephone booths, and so on. It has also enacted the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1966. What more can be done? It has also opened National Institute for the Hearing Impaired at Mumbai with Zonal offices at several places.

Too true, Government has no doubt done all this. But the point remains, how many deaf have benefitted from these measures? Unless the concept of maximum good of maximum numbers is applied, all the measures listed above and several more, are no more than window dressing or show pieces. Unless the benefit percolates down to the lowest levels, they remain meaningless. As for hearing aids, has one seen those born deaf using them and as for the much touted Act, it remains on paper and is yet to be implemented.

In-depth Scrutiny

Now let us carry an in-depth scrutiny of the measures initiated by the Government and their actual impact on deaf people. In the field of education, it has to be noted that (a) facilities for education for the deaf are just not available in rural areas, that too when India lives in its villages, and (b) the highest level of education available to the deaf in India through formal education is Matriculation, in which not many deaf qualify because of poor teaching facilities. Now it so happens that for the lowest post in Government service (a dream alike for normal persons and deaf) happens to be that of peon. For recruitment to this post one has to be Matriculate.

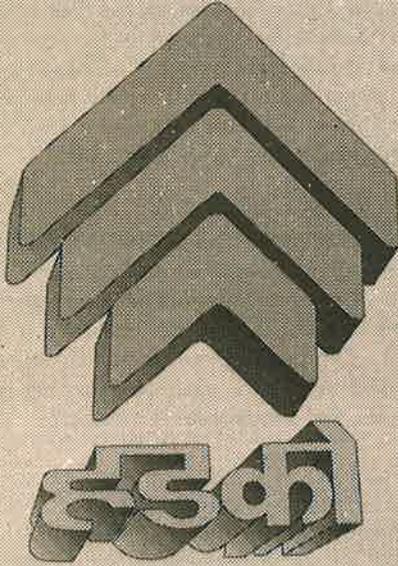
Now with educational facilities only up to Matriculation available to the Deaf, all that they can aspire is to be a peon in some Government Office ! A bright prospect indeed ! All other posts are automatically out of their reach. Then too when Primary education has been guaranteed to all, only 1% deaf school going age have any access to it. So much for equal opportunities for all. As for training facilities, the less said the better. In this space age, the only training available to the deaf (with minor exception of information technology recently started for the deaf) are all in manual crafts. In our ever increasingly competitive market for qualified personnel in modern technologies, how can deaf trained to work on old and obsolete trades, find a footing for themselves?

Much is made of 1% reservation for the deaf. The provision alas exist only on paper. One can visit any Government office to find out the reality and that will be that not even .01% per cent posts (that too only in C & D groups others being beyond their wildest dreams) have gone to the deaf. As for Special Employment Exchanges and Vocational Rehabilitation Centres, with the exception of a few, all are white elephants and of no use to the deaf.

As for the fringe benefits, though comparisons are odious, it can not be denied that deaf have been treated most shabbily. Facilities and concessions have been given more to other categories of disabled persons, not that deaf grudge them but when equality is the deciding factor, surely there should not be any discrimination. Indian deaf do not even have a common sign language of their own and no professional interpreters are available for the simple reason that they are just not there. Hardly a promising picture !

This state of affairs can be attributed to two factors - **inability of the deaf to raise a hue and cry in an age where it is only the squeaking wheel that gets the grease and poor caliber of it leadership, more often than not provided by normal people with the sole aim of self aggrandisement and for power and pelf that go with the post.**

This then is the scenario, fifty years after Independence. As matters stands, no improvement can be expected, unless the deaf take their affairs in their own hands, make an united effort to improve their lot and simultaneously do their best to create awareness about their cause and there by win the support of masses in their struggle to over come their twin disabilities, also Government apathy.



जीवन को खुशहाल बनाने की प्रक्रिया में हमारे कार्यकलाप, मानव बसाव से संबंधित आवश्यकताओं की दिशा में उसी प्रकार अग्रसर होते हैं जिस प्रकार सूरजमुखी का लक्ष्य सदा सूर्य की दिशा में होता है। जी हां, सचमुच हडको मानव बसाव क्षेत्र की तकनीकी और वित्तीय आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति में सबसे आगे है।

◀◀ अग्रणी की पहचान

एकमात्र कंपनी, जो बड़े पैमाने पर संसाधनों के जुटाव, व्यावसायिक निपुणता के सदुपयोग, नवीनतम वित्तीय विकल्प उपलब्ध कराने, परामर्श व प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने तथा लागत प्रभावी भवन निर्माण प्रौद्योगिकी को प्रोन्नत करने के लिए कृत संकल्प है। जी हाँ। यह हडको ही है, जो प्रतिवर्ष अपने लाभ में वृद्धि करते हुए देशभर में लाखों लोगों के जीवन स्तर को बेहतर और खुशहाल बना रही है।



आवास एवं नगर विकास

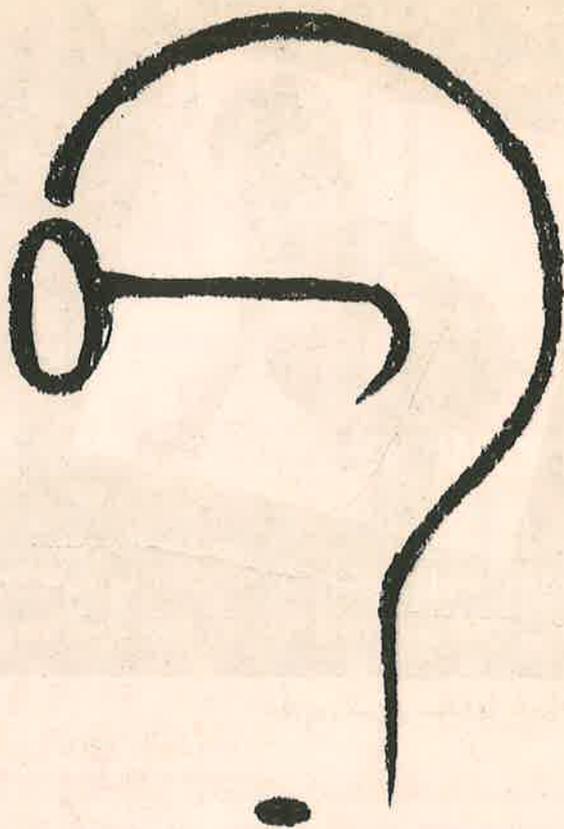
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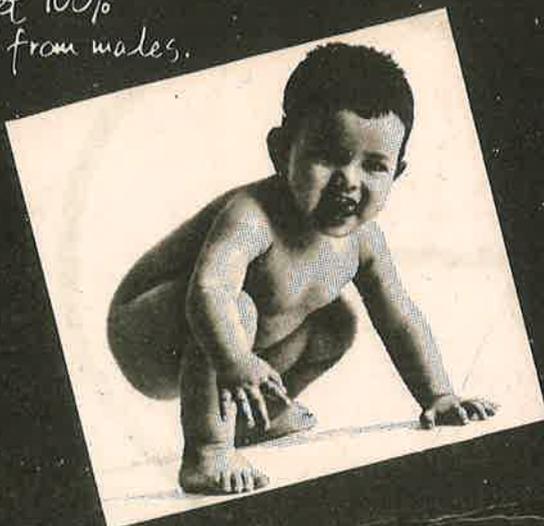
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