



DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

GOLDEN
JUBILEE
YEAR

2000-2001

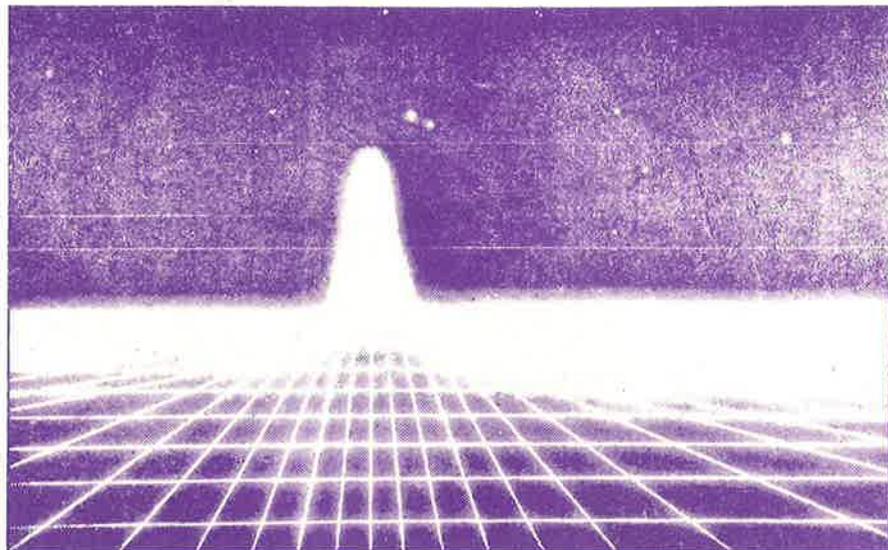


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DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY

Of

Shri K.K.Sinha



Shri Jaivir Singh



During the year 1999-2000, Association lost two of its strongest pillars – Shri K.K.Sinha and Shri Jaivir Singh. Shri Sinha, an ex. Hony. Secretary of the Association shall always be remembered for the outstanding contribution that he made to the silent sports. It was due to his indefatigable efforts that All India Sports Council of the Deaf progressed and prospered. It was his capable helmsmanship of the said Council that opened new vistas for deaf sports persons, many of whom won the coveted Arjuna Awards. The void created by his passing away will not be filled.

A gentle and easy going, well educated and well behaved deaf, Shri Jaivir Singh – who was Joint Secretary for several terms, was clearly a misfit in the today's world of cut throat competition. Though well employed, married and settled, he was under tremendous pressure. He died in the prime of life leaving behind young widow, small children and a host of friends.

Association prays for the peace of departed souls and dedicates this issue to their ever-lasting memory.

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OF
DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF FOR THE YEARS 2000-2002**

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8.	HONY. TREASURER	SHRI RAJIV GOEL
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13.	DO	SHRI MANGE RAM SAINI
14.	DO	SHRI SURENDRA KUMAR GOEL
15.	DO	SHRI RAM KUMAR
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No.F.2-M/2000

29th September, 2000

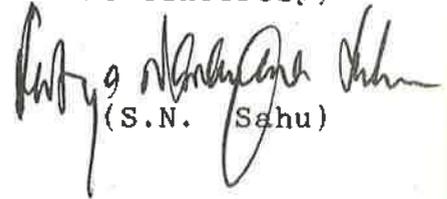
Dear Shri Chauhan,

The President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, is happy to know that the Delhi Association of the Deaf, New Delhi is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year from 4th October, 2000 to 4th October, 2001.

The President extends his warm greetings and felicitations to all those associated with the Association and wishes the Celebrations all success.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(S.N. Sahu)

Shri D.S. Chauhan,
Hony. Secretary,
Delhi Association of the Deaf,
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संदेश

मुख्य मंत्री
राजस्थान

9 OCT 2000

मुझे यह जानकर प्रसन्नता है कि दिल्ली बधिर सभा, नई दिल्ली के स्वर्ण जयंती वर्ष का 4 अक्टूबर, 2000 से 4 अक्टूबर, 2001 तक आयोजन, 8 अक्टूबर, 2000 को इसका औपचारिक उद्घाटन एवं इस अवसर पर स्मारिका का प्रकाशन किया जा रहा है।

मूक एवं बधिर भाई-बहिन समाज के महत्वपूर्ण अंग हैं तथा उन्हें समुचित शिक्षण-प्रशिक्षण एवं अवसर देकर समाज एवं राष्ट्र के विकास में भागीदार बनाया जा सकता है। यह शुभ है कि सभा लगभग आधी शताब्दी से इस दिशा में सक्रिय है।

मुझे विश्वास है कि इस के स्वर्ण जयंती वर्ष के कार्यक्रम बधिर भाई-बहिनों को स्वावलम्बी बनाकर उन्हें आगे बढ़ाने में सहायक होंगे।

मैं सभा के संस्थापकों-संचालकों को साधुवाद तथा समस्त सदस्य एवं बधिर भाई-बहनों को इस मौके पर बधाई देते हुए समारोह की सफलता के लिए हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं प्रेषित करता हूँ।

(अशोक गहलोत)

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**CHAIRMAN
&
MANAGING DIRECTOR**



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am happy to know that Delhi Association of the Deaf is organising 50th Annual Day on October 8, 2000.

For almost half a century the Association has been working hard for the socio – economic rehabilitation of Deafs. This noble cause will get tremendous boost on the completion of the on-going project of Research & Rehabilitation Centre for the Deaf. We all have to work together to achieve the objectives of the Association.

On this occasion, I convey my greetings to all the members and wish them success in their efforts for the welfare and development of deaf people.


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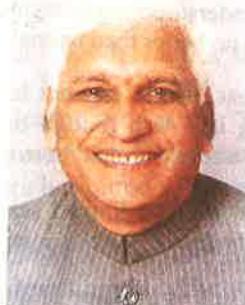
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VICE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am happy to congratulate the members on the eve of their 50th Annual Day. To have survived so long without a regular and dependable source of income is in itself an achievement to be proud of.

The Association has not only survived but has grown from strength to strength. From just 6 members in 1950, it now has more than 1200 members.

By starting various welfare activities, introducing rehabilitational services and achieving success, Association has become a role model for the country's welfare, voluntary organisation.

However, the real challenges lie ahead. We have to complete our project Research & Rehabilitation Centre for the Deaf and dedicate it to the nation as a part of Association's Golden Jubilee Year celebrations. Not only that, we have to make it a show piece the one and only one of its kind in Asia.

That apart, various programmes scheduled for Golden Jubilee Year have to be implemented successfully. Awareness about the cause of the deaf too has to be created.

All these will need our collective and determined efforts. Therefore, while greeting members on this historic occasion, I also urge them to work shoulder to shoulder and achieve results of which all of us can justly be proud of.

Association Petitions National Human Rights Commission

Delhi Association of the Deaf has petitioned the National Human Rights Commission. It has submitted that: -

Power of expression and being understood are fundamental human rights. In their absence a person becomes an alien in his own family and is no better than animal.

Since the deaf child does not hear, he/she can not learn the spoken language through the natural process of hearing sounds and imitating it. Also though the voice box and vocal cord are intact and functional these can not get activated. As a result, a child born deaf remains dumb also.

Deaf can and are being taught, albeit on a limited scale, to talk and learn language in their special institutions by using scientific methods. Unhappily, their educational institutions are few and far between.

Because of resources constraints and in absence of qualified man power, it is not possible to open sufficiently large number of the special institutions for the deaf, a fact that the Association realises and appreciates.

However, in the absence of adequate number of special educational insitutions for the deaf, a staggering number, as high as 99% of deaf remain uneducated and quite ignorant of the some of the most powerful human attributes - power of speech and knowledge of language - any language. In fact, most of such illiterate deaf people neither know nor realise the significance of their very name.

But being humans, even these people deprived of two of most precious God's gifts to humans, need to express themselves. The only mode of expression to these illiterate deaf people is signs and gestures, normally referred to sign language.

Unhappily, in India there is no standard or common Indian Sign Language. Signs are improvised at the spur of the moment to convey certain idea, message or feelings. These are not always adequate and attempts have to be made again and again.

Obviously such signs differ from place to place and even from person to person. Only those in close proximity can (if they interact that is - which is seldom) understand such signs. For others, even for a deaf, these are all Greek.

There is thus an urgent need for development of a standard or Common Indian sign Language, which all deaf can use uniformly and which all normal persons can also be made familiar with.

Unfortunately even after 53 years of independence, no sincere effort has been made to evolve a standard or common Indian Sign Language. This has in turn resulted in denial of basic human rights - power of expression and being understood to lacs and lacs of deaf people across the country.

The Government of India, through its Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, not having taken any initiative in this matter so far, the Association has petitioned the National Human Rights Commission seeking its directions to the Government to take immediate corrective steps.

It is hoped where combined efforts of deaf have failed, a directive from the National Human Rights Commission will ensure that the deaf get a standard, Common Indian Sign Language.

Other like minded organisations of the deaf in India are welcome to extend their moral or material support to the Association to enable it to carry on its crusade for the rights of deaf people to its logical conclusion.



HONY. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hon'ble Shri Vijai Kapoor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

A very warm welcome to you all. Your gracious presence here today has amply rewarded us for our 50 years selfless service to deaf people. We are encouraged we are honoured. Please accept our grateful thanks.

A few days back, on October 4, 2000, we completed fifty years of useful existence. Alas, the results achieved by us are nothing to boast about. The mere fact that even fifty years after, the Association does not have a place, which it can call its own will, proves the point.

It is not that we have not tried enough. The poor results are no reflection on our efforts, which have been sincere, steady and persistent. Our own members, weakest among the weak and aptly called 'Children of a Lesser God', could hardly tilt the scales in our favour. Society at large and the policy planners of the Government, who were expected to provide the helping hand failed to do so, because of the abysmal absence of awareness about the cause of the deaf people. Hence our poor results.

The situation was further compounded by unbridgeable communication gap between the deaf and the hearing, poor linguistic skills of deaf people and the total ignorance of the sign language (such as it is), a near total absence of educational and training facilities for the deaf and the poor pace of socio-economic rehabilitation of the deaf people.

I am not seeking alibis, nor am I finding excuses for the poor results. Facts have however, to be pointed out, if for nothing to set the records straight. Hence the general, brief review of the prevailing conditions under which the deaf people and their NGOs have to function.

This done, now I will briefly discuss our failures and successes as also the dreams that we are dreaming. I will not take your time by dwelling upon the performance of Association over the past fifty years. I leave it for the next annual day when celebrations of our Golden Jubilee Year will conclude.

The year 1999-2000, was a year like any other year with a mixed lot of successes and failures. However, the period immediately after saw more failures than successes. Due to certain factors, the elections held on 31-10-99 threw up a team lacking team spirit. Some important posts were left vacant. As a result, it became difficult to carry on the work smoothly.

Consequently work suffered. Though normal activities were carried out some how the tempo was lost. Due to financial constraints the training schemes – computer operation, D.T.P., type writing etc. had to be closed down, as Association could not afford payment of salaries to the instructors.

It will be pertinent here to mention that during the last few years, the quantum of grant-in-aid received from the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was only a fraction of the actual expenditure incurred by the Association. Theoretically 90% of expenditure has to be given as grant. But this is rarely done. As a result, the Association suffered a short fall of over Rs.5 lacs over a period.

Then too, a dispute with the contractor entrusted with the task of constructing building for Association's Research & Rehabilitation Center for the Deaf resulted in total stoppage of work for more than eight months. The matters have been sorted out now but at a cost of Rs.25 lacs, not a small sum for a poor NGO like our Association. As against a tendered estimated cost of Rs.42 lacs, the contractor will now have to be paid Rs. 67 lacs.

The financial position has all along been critical. With public donations having totally dried up and Government not releasing adequate funds, the Association, which has no revenue generating projects has been in a tight spot.

Theoretically a construction grant of Rs. 15 lacs is admissible from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment but despite our best efforts, no funds could be got sanctioned. Our efforts to get some urgently needed assistance from Delhi Kalyan Samiti have met with a similar failure. This hurts us more as Smt. Sheila Dixit who is a past President of our Association now heads the Delhi Government.

I would request Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi to kindly help us out of a tight spot by getting adequate funds released from Delhi Kalyan Samiti. There is real urgency. Delhi Development Authority has fixed 30 June 2001 as the dead line for completing all construction or face take-over of the plot and structures there on.

The performance on sports front has been equally dismal. Due to lethargy of the persons involved Delhi Games of the Deaf, annually held at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium for the last 15 years without a-break could not be held this year. However as a poor consolation, participation in national games and sports meet was ensured. Alas, it was mere participation for unlike previous years no laurels could be won.

This in brief is the litany of our failures. The only Silver line in the otherwise bleak scenario is the success achieved by our Sunday School. A sort of link uniting formal and non-formal education, in our Sunday School emphasis is being placed on improving the linguistic skills of the students. We believe, and rightly so, that if knowledge of languages can be improved study of all other subjects will also improve.

That we have proved right goes without saying. Seven of our students secured 1st position in their respective classes, six stood second and an even number won third positions. The Association rewarded them with prizes. Happily for them, Rotary Club of Delhi Safdarjung too joined us in appreciating these achievements. Their prizes were no doubt, costlier and comprised of wristwatches etc., the children got a big boost and we look forward to even better performance during the current academic year.

Our Sunday School has now on roll more than 120 students. The Association owes a debt of gratitude to Lala Dewan Chand Trust which has not only provided centrally located space to run the School but has made available chairs, fans and other needed materials time and again.

Apart from language, we impart knowledge about happenings in the world, teach morals, ethics and explain various rituals, customs and usages, which have become a part of our social fibre. Teachings of all major religions are also explained. As they normally have no access to such information elsewhere, the school is meeting a vital need.

The Association successfully contested the case of one of its members, Shri Rajnikant Bansal in the Court of Chief Commissioner for Disabilities. Employed as a member of sub-staff in the Union Bank of India, Shri Bansal and several other deaf persons working in the same Bank as sub-staff were denied permission to sit for departmental test for promotion to the clerical cadre on the plea that they had more than 40% disability.

Association successfully countered with the plea that to be eligible for recruitment against physically handicapped quota, a deaf person has to have 60 db or more hearing loss. Moreover under Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act 1995, discrimination can not be made on ground of disability. No lawyers were engaged. The narrator personally handled the case before the court with the help of an interpreter Shri Ashok Raja.

Then also the Research Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment approved a project report on Development of a Common Indian Sign Language submitted by the narrator on behalf of the Association. After that there has not been much of a progress though as demanded a revised Budget Estimate for the project stands submitted.

Since development of a Common Indian Sign Language is of vital importance for the deaf as it now differs not only from place to place but from person to person, mass understanding or uniformity in signs is missing. This restricts its use and makes it unsuitable for media of instruction.

However as 99% persons with hearing impairment depend entirely on sign language and suffer greatly for want of the ability to communicate with others and more important being understood, development of a common Indian Sign Language is vital. Since Government is not taking the matter seriously, Association has already moved the National Human Rights Commission and proposes to take the case to its logical conclusion if necessary by filing a P.I.L. in Supreme Court.

Association's Library-cum-Reading Room continued to provide some relief to its members who now number more than 1200 but the available material falls short of requirements. Funds crunch has, however, prevented us from expanding these activities to the desired dimensions.

Now some thing about the dreams that we dream of, whether these remain mere day, dreams or are translated into realities will depend largely on the quantum of moral and material support that Association can evoke from the society and the Government.

Top on the list is of course completion of Association's Building Project. This will depend upon our ability to raise required construction costs now revised to Rs.67 lacs. As some amount has already been spent and about Rs.10 lacs are available, the real short fall is around Rs. 37 lacs. This can be met provided Association gets Construction Grant of Rs. 15 lacs from Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and another assistance of about Rs.25 lacs from Delhi Kalyan Samiti.

Then there is the matter of equipping the Center. This will need another Rs. 10 lacs and Rs. 5 lacs will be needed as seed money to see the Center functional. These figures are apparently beyond Association's reach but have to be raised for the country needs institutions like the projected Center for improving the educational and training facilities now available to the deaf people in the country.

Next on the list of priorities is to take up the Common Indian Sign Language Project, with or without Government help. The projected Center will have provision for continuous updating of Sign Language through research. It is also planned to prepare video-taped lessons on the analogy books for the visually challenged persons. These video-taped lessons will be supplied to students at subsidised prices.

Introduction of Degree level education for the Deaf at the projected Center has also been planned. There is no College exclusively for the Deaf in the whole of the county at present. There is said to be one at Chennai but its scope has been restricted to teaching of humanities only. We plan to make available higher education in all streams.

Simultaneously with attempting to translate above dreams in reality, we plan to celebrate our Golden Jubilee Year from 8th October 2000 to 8th October 2001. For this an elaborate programme, as briefly discussed here in after has been drawn up. We will spare no effort to see that all the projected plans are successfully implemented. As our Chief Guest today is commencing the beginning with the lighting of the lamp, we can confidently term the beginning to have been successful. As the saying goes, well began is half done. We, therefore, have high hopes.

We shall begin by holding an event for the deaf children. We will try to bring a bit of sunshine and cheer in their otherwise drab lives. Depending upon the response we get, a two-day function will be held in early December. On the spot painting, races, fancy dress and lip reading competitions shall be held. Attractive prizes shall be awarded, not only to the winners alone, but also to all the participants so that they may cherish its happy memory.

There are also plans to arrange a get together to usher in the New Year and new millenium which correctly speaking start on 1st Jan. 2001. As a matter of fact, our members invariably meet in large numbers annually on New Year's day to wish and exchange greetings. This year, this will be something special.

Then in Feb. 2001, we plan to organise our Delhi Games of the Deaf, which are annually held at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. This year, we plan to make it a two-day event, invite larger participants and give them a special treat. Funds permitting, we may also hold an All India championship in one or the other disciplines.

Come April 2001, it will be National Seminar on "Education of the Deaf in the New Millenium." Needs of deaf people for early intervention, research, education, training, socio-economic rehabilitation, a more rewarding & satisfying life, old age care etc. will be discussed by eminent personalities in the field for 3 days. God willing, we shall also be able to dedicate to nation our Rs. one crore Research & Rehabilitation Center for the Deaf then.

July 2001 will see assembled in Delhi mime artists from all over the country to display their inherent talents and win accolade, also rich prizes. It is also to be a three-day event. An exhibition of handicrafts of the deaf shall be held simultaneously.

On Aug. 15, 2001, there shall be a gala Picnic for the Members at Lodhi Gardens, the venue of our usual annual picnic. This time it will be different. We propose to invite eminent personalities to break bread with us, meet our twelve hundred odd members and give away presents to our newly married couples. Sports, skill tests etc. will also be held for the children of our members.

The year long celebrations shall be rounded off by a gala function preferably at a five star hotel. The highlight of the programme will be presentation of a Badhir Bandhu Award to a person rendering the most meritorious services to the Deaf.

An exhibition cum-Auction of the Art work by leading normal as well as disabled artists shall be held simultaneously.

The occasion will also be utilised to present mementos to Founder members, National/State/Arjuna Award winners as also to the members making significant contribution to the growth of the Association. All the members will also get a memento.

A Souvenir specially brought out on the occasion high lighting the catalytic role that the Association has played over the years, also containing a directory of members will be released on the occasion.

It will thus be seen that the Association has taken upon itself a most stupendous task involving huge expenses. However, as stated before, with our trust in God and the good wishes of our well-wishers, we hope to meet the challenge and implement our project in toto. We do need your support and empathy. This goes without saying.

Now I would like to place on record our grateful thanks for favours received. I will begin by thanking our Chief Guest today. He has been gracious enough to spare so much of his time and sit listening to this tedious narration of mine. Along with offering thanks, I will avail the opportunity to beg a favour in addition to the one sought earlier.

All the troubles of Association can be ascribed to paucity of funds. This is due to the fact that Association does not have any revenue generating projects, except few scooter stands, which are providing us some support. With some revenue generating projects of its own, Association can become self-supporting.

Sir, when you were Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and we had an occasion to call on you, you were gracious enough to talk to us in black and white. You had also suggested that we apply for allotment of Scooter stand at I.P.Estate, Power Station to augment our resources. We did try as suggested by your good self but the idea could not fructify, as we could not out bid others in open auctions.

Our present Scooter stands - two in NDMC area and one at Rajghat Samadhi have been given to us on token license fee basis. As a result we have been able to provide gainful employment to some of our members and have also been able to generate some funds to further our welfare activities. Now that you are at the helms of the Government may we suggest that M.C.D., D.D.A. and N.D.M.C. may be persuaded to allot to us one or more scooter stands on a token license fee basis. If this is done, we will be able to supplement our income significantly. This will also end our dependence on external help to a certain extent.

Our grateful thanks are due to Lala Dewan Chand Trust. The Trust has readily and willingly extended us a helping hand during the hour of our need. If we ultimately complete our Building Project and make it functional, it will again be through their most valuable help.

To Rotary Club of Delhi Safdarjung and particularly its past Presidents and current President Ms Vijaya Joshi, Association owes an eternal debt of gratitude. They have been evincing interest in our educational activities, helping us out when needed and have provided that human touch that we have missed the most all these years. We hope and pray that this association last.

Shri N.N. Vohra, Director, India International Center has been to us kindness personified. He has been allowing us the use of this Auditorium annually free of charges for these celebrations. We are most grateful.

To our well-wishers, donors, advertisers too we owe an eternal debt of gratitude, as without their valuable help we could not have even assembled here for these celebrations. They have been our mainstays in the absence of an assured Government assistance and we have per force to fall back on the support of these kind and generous persons year after year. So to them also we say a big thank you.

Finally ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for joining us on this occasion, a milestone in Association's annals and hope you will grace other functions that we are going to organise as a part of our Golden Jubilee Year.

Thank you,



MY WORST FAILURE

B.N.KAUL
Executive President

If I were to write my autobiography, it would be titled: "Failure was my Forte". Of course such a book by B.N. Kaul would never see the light of day because, I was born as a non-entity, lived the whole life as non-entity and will die as unheard of non-entity. I am at peace with myself and will die in peace because I never compromised my integrity, conscience and principles, never ran after fame and glory.

From my early childhood, I have led a life of sorrow, frustrations and failures. As I grew up, my family suffered increasing pangs of poverty. Supposed to be a brilliant student, I joined the first year of college at 13, but only after mortgaging half of my mothers Kashmiri Mangalsutra for Rs. 25/- of those days to pay my admission fee.

Within months, however, such a cataclysm struck me that I had not imagined in my nightmares. A sudden attack of acute typhoid complicated by some other malaise rendered me unconscious for 20 days at a stretch and, consequently, I lost my hearing completely.

It took me a year to recoup. My educational career was scuttled. It took me long time to realise that this kind of deafness was incurable, world over. The ensuing struggle, while helping me to emerge as a self-taught and self trained journalist and then a writer (in Urdu, English and Hindi). I had to suffer discrimination, injustice and denial of full rights at every stage. Even this little success was laced with bitterness and failures. While the failures are my personal problems, I mentioned this because no physically handicapped even now succeeds in overcoming injustice and discrimination.

The worst failure that I have suffered in my life is not related to my person, but has a direct bearing on the abject lot of the physically handicapped, especially the deaf – our collective failure to get even minimum of what is due to us even after enjoying more than half a century of much flaunted independence and democracy!

Only a miniscule minority of the physically handicapped especially the deaf has been able to make something of their lives, be getting employed and to becoming self-reliant. I can speak for all the physically handicapped because apart from my studies of their deprived conditions and other problems, I am now myself a double physically handicapped, that too in my old age. A road accident broke my knee. The fortunate minority among us is of those who were born to be sufficiently educated and economically well off or at least middle class parents. It was because of this relatively more conducive environment that helped these more fortunate deaf mutes to get some education. Only lower secondary education is open to them, that too in urban areas alone and later, some vocational training. Actually it was their own urge and spirit of enterprise that helped them to settle down. Some were able to get higher secondary education and applied technical training. Only they were able to take advantage of some show window facilities made available to them by the government.

As a result we have now many deaf-mutes employed by the government, the public and the private sectors and various institutions. But they hold only lower ranks. Then there are self reliant and self employed deaf-mute tailor-masters, photographers, printers, artists, sculptors, merchants, small workshop runners (and owners) toy manufacturers and so on. The total number of these, creamy class, deaf-mutes runs in thousands, but not in tens of thousand. Now they have made a debut in Information Technology too and there are quite a few deaf cyber operators. The credit for their self rehabilitation goes to them and their guardians and not to the government or various NGOs claiming to be working for their welfare but doing little in concrete terms.

And remember the total number of deaf-mutes is more than 15 millions in the whole country.

The incidence of deafness, blindness and such other disabilities is much more pronounced in poorer segments, which constitute over 75 percent of the total (over one billion) population of India. An overwhelming majority of these disabled persons belongs to the poverty stricken people who are not only economically weak and socially backward, but also illiterate and superstition ridden. The deaf mutes born to such parents are pathetic indeed. The parents are unable to help deaf offspring in the least, can not even communicate with them. Thus deprived of chances of developing some intellect, they become automatically mentally retarded too, reduced to vegetable condition in their very early years. Most of them die very young. Fewer attain youth only, to lead an existence worse than beggars. You can see them lying wasted in *katras* of old Delhi, in slums and rural areas. My worst failure is that my feeble efforts to draw attention to this big majority of the physically handicapped have produced no response.

In Kashmir, where I lost my hearing, I remained oblivious to the existence of so many deaf mutes. It was in Delhi that many years after the partition, widely circulated Urdu daily, the *Milap*, which employed me as an assistant editor, published a piece written by me about my life full of frustrations. Within weeks, I received over a thousand letters from the parents and guardians of deaf-mutes seeking my guidance in their efforts to put their deaf-mute children on their feet, also inquiring if there was a cure to this malady. This response staggered me out of my wits.

Some people came to my office to meet me in person. Among them was Bans Gopal Nigam, General Secretary to the Deaf and Dumb Association, (D.D.A.), whose Urdu knowing elder brother had conveyed to him a gist of my writing. It was then that I came to know about the existence of any organised body of the deaf-mutes. I willingly assured him of my cooperation. Soon I came to know that there were other bodies of deaf-mutes, at least two other in Delhi itself, and more in other cities. This meant that deaf-dumb politics was also a fact of life.

Along with him, Bans Gopal brought two more educated deaf - Devi Singh Chauhan and Onkar Sharma. Both were employed in NDMC. D.D.A was then functioning from a small part of ground floor in the house owned by the treasurer of the Association belonging to the rich family of Ratan Lal Agarwal also deaf mute. With our help D.D.A. was registered under the Societies Registration Act and its constitution was adopted. Its regular office was opened in Sitaram Bazar. Soon later, Mahatma Gandhi's well-known aide, Dr. Sushila Nayar took over as the President. Actually D.D.A. had already split with the original founder, the late Morris Chukarbuti, deaf-mute scion of a noble Bengali family of Army Generals, who had been educated in England, forming a parallel body - North India Deaf & Dumb Society. Majority of members had gone with him. He was a simple minded honest person.

We soon came to know the cause of the split. Bans Gopal acting like a dictator had come under the influence of a lady Congress M.P., Mrs. Savitri Nigam. With her help, B.G. Nigam got a grant of Rs. 5000 from the Government for attending World Conference of the Deaf in Zegreb (Yugoslavia). Though we did not like these dealings, we did not resent his going. Instead, bade him warm farewell. No one had elected him as the only delegate from India. Trouble actually started when we learned that Bans Gopal had used another grant sanctioned by the Delhi government for welfare activities. He also refused to furnish any accounts of both grants. In this he was backed by Savitri Nigam who defied even Dr. Sushila Nayar. Consequently myself and Devi Singh walked out and Dr. Nayar resigned. This turned DDA into personal fiefdom of the two Nigams. B.G. and Savitri Devi. Soon they floated the so-called All India Federation of the Deaf (AIFD) which had no affiliated body except for their faction in Delhi and was comprised of individuals picked up by Mrs. Nigam. Me and Devi Singh were kept out like pariahs but Onkar Sharma and later an other educated deaf K.K. Sinha, (recently died) were put on the bandwagon and showered with paid positions and funds for foreign trips, for which with the use of political clout many government grants and outer funds were abused. Mrs. Nigam even got a big permit for steel (then scare commodity and sold it in black market) in the name of a fake deaf-mute workshop and misappropriated the permit.

Devi Singh Chauhan and me joined Deaf & Dumb Society and put it on its feet. Unfortunately Chauhan too fell apart from me because I was chosen the General Secretary which he perhaps deemed his right. I was ready to make way for him, but the President, Mrs. Subahdra Joshi also a M.P. and most of the members were against his brusque manners. He made this a personal issue. I must admit my guilt of opposing his tactics. I should have used more tact and allayed his misgivings. Consequently all the few educated deaf fell apart which left field open for exploiting politicians and their minions.

I too came to grief soon. I reorganised the All India Deaf & Dumb Society (AIDDS) as a parallel to AIFD, established many branches, especially in West Bengal, Maharastra, Punjab, Haryana and U.P., set up welfare centers, won government recognition and promises of grants in aid. Even Jawaharlal Nehru and other leaders, evinced interest in Society's activities. The then Minister in charge held talks for reunification of our Society and AIFD but Mrs. Nigam would have none of this.

Mrs. Joshi an active politician of wide interests, is a honest person who loved us, the deaf as her children (she had none of her own). But when an elitist minion of her Baljit Kapoor saw funds pouring in the Society's coffers, he started trouble. We shared office with his Grain Dealers cooperative. He instigated my staff. His connection with us was only in an advisory capacity to the Deaf & Dumb Cooperative Society under which I was running a big handloom workshop. He created a question of principle for me, forcing me to resign as the General Secretary of AIDDS, much against Mrs. Joshi's wishes. Then Kapoor bribed a majority of the members of cooperative and engineered my defeat in the election. This hurt me badly, not because of loss of position, which meant nothing to me but because the way naïve and poor deaf were corrupted. I vowed not to assume in the future any active role in the affairs of deaf. D.S. Chauhan and I joined the New Delhi Deaf and Dumb Club, whose activities were restricted to the sports and social welfare.

Later DDA also underwent change with the exist of Nigams. As a result the Club, DDA merged to form the Delhi Association of the Deaf (DAD). Chauhan took it over as General Secretary and I confined myself to advisory role as non-functioning Executive President. Chauhan has built DAD into the largest body of deaf-mutes with 1200 active members which is doing a lot of good work (read his report), especially in the field of promoting sports, assistance in solving personal problem and finding employment, providing education facilities etc. In relative performance DAD excels all other organisations.

However, the damage done by the falling apart of educated deaf could not be healed. If we had remained together the worst might have been avoided. The deaf remain where they were half a century ago. Their problems have only accentuated and multiplied. The society and government are more unsympathetic than ever before. Onkar Sharma was thrown out as General Secretary of AIFD when he was seriously ill. His family was evicted from the quarter allotted to him in the big hostel run partly as private hotel by Ms. Surinder Saini who succeeded Mrs. Nigam. The Training Center and large hotel standing on a big plot of land has a market value of roughly Rs. 50 crores. Ms Saini has turned it into personal fiefdom by handing it over to a Trust nominated by her. Her big achievement was to disaffiliated DAD, the largest body of deaf from her fake Federation and virtually threw not only me and Chauhan but even Dr. S.P. Puri, Ex. M.P. from the annual meeting to which we were bonafied delegates.

I believe that basic reason why this rot could not be prevented form spreading is that educated deaf failed to act in unison and to rise above personal prejudices. I acknowledge my share of this guilt and call this as my worst failure. I can not speak for others. Today I bemoan.

*Na Nagma Sar Hoon, Na Nagma Saaz
Main Hoon Apni Shikast Ki Awaj*

(I am neither a creator nor connoisseur of music and song. My discordant notes only echo my failures and frustration.)

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YOUR CHILD
IS GOING TO BE
COSTLIER, AND
COSTLIER...



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FACT-SHEET

<u>ESTABLISHED:</u>	AS DEAF & DUMB ASSOCIATION, DELHI	OCT. 4, 1950
<u>RENAMED:</u>	DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (On Merger of New Delhi Deaf & Dumb Club and Deaf Dumb Association, Delhi)	1977
<u>FOUNDER:</u>	ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF THE DEAF	1955
<u>FOUNDER MEMBER:</u>	ALL INDIA SPORTS COUNCIL OF THE DEAF	1962

VITAL STATISTICS:

LIFE MEMBERS:	1210
ANNUAL BUDGET:	About Rs. 5,00,000/-
FULL TIME PAID WORKERS:	TEN
REHABILITATION VENTURES:	FIVE (FOUR CYCLE STANDS) (at Rajghat, two in Connaught Place & NIDC) and ONE SHOP 'MOOK PREETI' 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, SOCIO-ECONOMIC REHABILITATION, INTER-ACTION WITH GOVERNMENT, LOCAL BODIES, STATE ORGANISATIONS, TRAINING IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ETC.

STATUS:

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

IMPORTANT PAST PRESIDENTS:

Shri I.K. Gujral, Ms (Dr) Sushila Nayar,
Late Shri Hari Krishna Shastri etc.

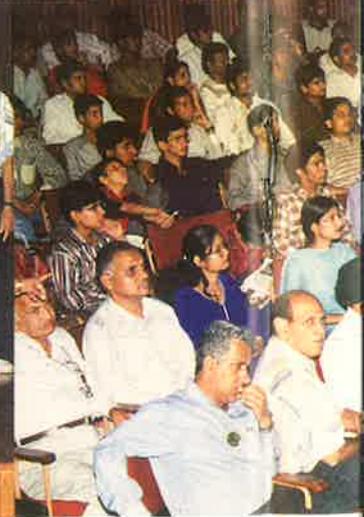
NEW PROJECT:

Rs.100 lac **RESEARCH & REHABILITATION CENTER FOR THE DEAF.**

Foundation was laid on 9th April 1995 and construction has commenced. When functional, will provide facilities to 100 students for Degree level education, advanced training in Computers, electronics, information technology and produce video taped lessons. Design & publish textbooks for deaf etc.

MANAGEMENT:

The Association has a dedicated and distinguished management. Association's Chairman, **Dr. Bansi Dhar** is a leading industrialist (Chairman & Managing Director, DCM Shriram Industries Ltd.) and is a Past President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry. **Shri Rajendra Kr. Gupta**, Vice-Chairman is Ex-Mayor of Delhi and Ex-Transport Minister Delhi. Others on the Executive Committee are well-educated deaf who have dedicated their lives to the uplift of the deaf.



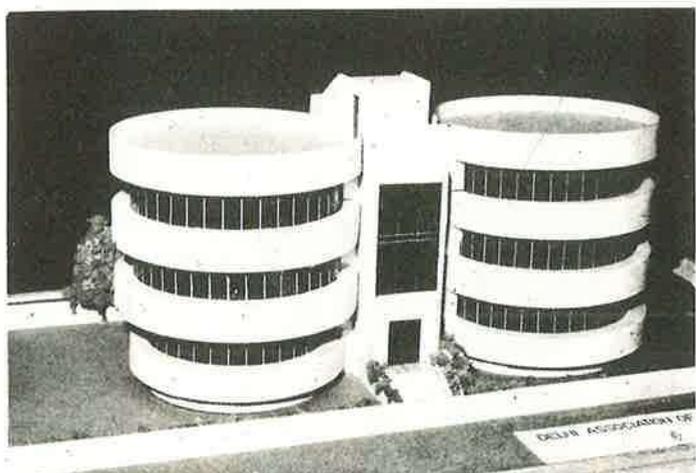


Legend

1. Shri Vijai Kapoor, Lt. Governor, Delhi, Chief Guest being welcomed on arrival
2. Chief Guest delivering his address
3. Chief Guest inaugurates Golden Jubilee Year celebrations by lighting the lamp
4. Shri Rajendra Gupta, Vice Chairman, DAD Lights the inaugural lamp
5. Memento being presented to the Chief Guest by Shri Rajendra Gupta
6. Members presenting a dance.
7. Artiste with the distinguished Chief Guest
8. View of audience in rapt attention.



**DEAF NEED YOUR HELP
TO
OWN THEIR OWN RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION CENTRE**



KINDLY CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO OUR BUILDING PROJECT FUND

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To : Hony. Secretary

Delhi Association of the Deaf

92, Kamla Market,

New Delhi-110 002

Phone : 733 991

Clarion Call for Deaf Unity

Deaf Have Nothing To Lose But Their Dependence On Others

Ramesh Gupta
Vice President



The entire world knows that in unity lies strength. Deaf people too know the truth of this saying. However, their acts speak differently. As one who has been associated with a number of organisations of the deaf, have traveled all over India, met a cross section of deaf people and have a large number of deaf friends scattered across the country, I can say of my own knowledge that deaf tend to fragmentation, breaking up of organisation and instead of brother hood and fellow feeling, create more heart burning and bad blood.

Not that all-deaf people are so inclined. An average deaf is simple honest and full of fellow feeling. He has a supportive streak in him/her self and will any day come out to help, assist or support a fellow deaf.

The reason for the prevailing strain and strife among the deaf are their power hungry leaders who have adopted divide and rule policy. They have been misguiding simple deaf people and have been creating their support base by brain washing others.

Has this state of affairs, prevailing since over half a century benefited the common deaf or their organisations in any way? The answer is obviously a big 'No'. Among all categories of disabled persons, deaf are the most backward – socially as well as economically. Deaf have neither proper facility for education nor training. Rehabilitation services for them are absent. They have no social or cultural life. This is all because our leaders are more interested in protecting their own position of power, which ensures them an easy life.

Should this situation be allowed to continue? The answer again is No. We must bring about a change for the better. This can only be possible if we, the common deaf people, join forces, unite and work in unison to improve our lot socially as well as economically. We must persuade, nay force our leaders, either to mend their ways, achieve unity, work shoulder to shoulder with like minded people, achieve cooperation with other organisations of the deaf and make sincere and sustained efforts to improve the lot of the deaf people, or quit.

I have visited a number of foreign countries. Every where deaf are united. They co-operate with each other, live in peace and harmony. There is no bitterness among them that we find in India. As a result, they have progressed. They have excellent facilities for education and training. Job prospects are also very bright.

I asked several deaf persons abroad, the secret of their success. They told that they do not fight among themselves but unitedly face their Government and make it grant them facilities and concessions. If they can do so there, we can also do alike here.

Let us forget differences. Let us give up the lure of office or position. Let us join hands. Let us put up a united front. Let our object be the improvement of the deaf people as a whole and not just to ensure own comfort, power and prestige. If our leaders do not do so, let us throw them out as they are not helping us but helping themselves.

I, therefore, appeal to all deaf brothers and sisters all over India to turn a new leaf. Let there be love, brotherhood and mutual co-operation. Banish rivalry. March together to the goals of enlightenment and attainment. Let us end our dependence on others. If others help, it is most welcome. If others do not help, let us help ourselves. Let us not be misguided or swayed by allurements that may be put before us.

Always remember that God only helps those who help themselves.

WITH
BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM



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Wanted-----

A Common Indian Sign Language For the Deaf -- Now

**By D.S. Chauhan
Hony. Secretary**

Imagine this scenario: -

Each one of us spells or pronounces a word according to his/her sweet will. Ditto for written alphabet and phonetics. Rules of grammar are thrown out of window. To crown it all, each one insists that he/she alone is right, the rest are all-wrong.

In the resulting babble, meaning and understanding would be the first casualties. In the spoken form, the cacophony will be unintelligible. In the written form, the jumbled up letters written every which way, will look like spider's feet, incomprehensible and absurd.

And the over all cumulative result - all social, cultural and commercial life will come to stand still. No one will understand what the other says or writes. Utter chaos will be created all round. A very disturbing and frightful scenario indeed.

Very Much There

Such a scenario, believe it or not, is very much there - albeit on a limited scale. It is to be found in a small section of our society, the deaf. Alas, not many are aware of its existence.

One has only to attend an assembly of deaf people and observe their vain attempts at communicating with others. Gesticulating, making faces, they strive to express them selves through signs and gestures. These, alas, only causes mirth and hilarity among the onlookers. The one thing that will stand out for a keen observer will be that no two persons are using similar sign, which differ from person to person.

It will also be noted that the same signs are repeated a number of times till the meaning clicks and the person being signed to (or talked to) nods his/her head and takes up his end of the signathone e- la talkathone. The communication between the deaf thus goes on through innovation and experimentation.

Lingua Franca

But wait, do not rush to blame the deaf. They are not at fault. In the first place, there are no standard signs for specific words. Innovation is their only option. Express they themselves must. Since they can not speak or hear and in 99% cases are also illiterate, what choice do they have apart from using the signs of their own, improvised on the spur of the moment and to repeat these till meaning clicks?

Sign Language is thus the lingua franca of the deaf. It is their only mode of communicating among themselves as also with their normal hearing peers. Since sign language, as has been explained differs from person to person and hence from place to place understanding it not easy.

It is a matter of common knowledge that in the absence of a standard common Indian Sign Language for the deaf, deaf people are using signs that they themselves devise. Yet even after 53 years of independence, no sincere attempt has been made to evolve a Common Indian Sign Language.

Why Sign Language

Let it be explained here as to why the deaf have to use sign language in the first place. They may be born deaf but surely they are not born dumb? A good question.

Explanation is really very simple. Human beings learn the spoken word or call it language through the natural process of hearing. A child hears a sound. It is automatically registered in his brain. As he grows, he tries to imitate the heard sound. The voice box and other speech mechanism are thus activated and the power of speech is acquired.

A person thus learns his/her mother tongue even without receiving any formal education. The deaf children, on the other hand, not being able to hear the spoken word can not learn it and therefore, though their voice box, vocal cord etc. are no doubt in good condition, can not be activated. Hence those born deaf remain dumb also, unless of course they are taught to speak in their special institutions. Alas, there is no guarantee that all those receiving instructions in special institutions for the deaf will fully develop their inherent power of speech, firstly because of varying I. Q. And also because not all have the patience and perseverance needed.

Special Institutions

It will thus be seen that special institutions are vital for the deaf, particularly at the pre-primary and primary stage to familiarise them with the written and spoken language. If they are herded in schools for normal children in the name of integration without teaching or at least familiarising them with the concept of language, they are unlikely to benefit.

When we look at the need for special institutions for the deaf and again at the number of such institutions, we realise the painful truth that number of special institutions for the deaf is woefully inadequate. In the country as a whole there are around 350 special institutions or schools for the deaf. Most of them are of primary level. No effort is made to bring the deaf after a certain stage in to the main stream of education for normal children by way of integration. Of course, some attempts have been made but these are more window dressing, and are there primarily to obtain grants.

Institutions imparting secondary level education to the deaf can be counted on fingertips. There is no provision for degree level education, except that of an institution at Chennai, which imparts degree level education in humanities – especially commerce in which the need for learning language and acquiring power of expression is minimum.

Drop in the Ocean

The facilities for training the adult deaf in vocational trades are even less. There are only three Training Centers for the Adult Deaf in the whole of the country – two run by NGOs and the lone one by the Government. Between them, the three can not train more than 300 deaf at a time against the need to train a minimum of 30,000 deaf.

The same goes for educational facilities. Of over a lac of deaf children of school going age, hardly 10,000 have any access to formal education. The percentage of dropouts is very high in such schools. Thus it can be said that the facilities for education and training for the deaf are like the proverbial drop in the ocean.

What are disturbing are that all these facilities whether for education or training available to the deaf are located in urban areas and cater primarily to urban needs. In our village where the real India lives, there are no facilities for deaf perhaps because they are thinly spread. Because of prevailing ignorance among the rural masses about deaf and that they can be educated and trained, deaf people in rural areas are left to their fate to lead a life cut off not only from the society but from their families as well.

The Reason why

And why are these educational and training facilities for the deaf so abysmally few? Lack of resource and infrastructures is one reason. Absence of adequate trained personnel for the special institutions is another reason often given out for this deplorable state of affairs.

Too true. However, there may also be another reason, at least a contributory factor – the absence of a common or standard Indian Sign Language which could have been the cementing factor between teacher and the taught and also between the deaf and normal hearing people. The argument is not as far fetched as it may appear at a first glance.

Consider these facts: A standard sign language could have been understood in all parts of our vast country and this in turn would have created awareness about the deaf people and their cause. Teaching particularly of languages whether English, Hindi or regional would have been more result oriented. With the improved linguistic skills among the educated deaf, more and more parents of the deaf who now finding that emphasis is purely on vocational training which can easily be acquired through apprenticeship are averse to send their children to schools, would have eagerly availed the facilities. This in turn would have increased demand for special institution for the deaf.

The Mother of Languages

Be as it may, the fact remains that Sign Language for the Deaf is their lingua franca. Let us also admit that it is the mother of all Languages, which have over the ages attained their present level and eminence through the process of development over the eons from sign language.

It is also an established fact that barring the miniscule minority of the elitist among the deaf who flaunt their prowess of lip reading and have joined the ranks of 'normal people', all deaf use sign language in one form or the other. It is by no means, to be little the achievements of those acquiring the skill of lip reading the hard way. But let us face it. Only 1% of the deaf have an access to education in India. Out of these one percent hardly one or two percent acquire proficiency in lip reading despite all the tall claims made by the advocates of oral system of education.

Then too, it has to be remembered that the vast majority of the deaf has never crossed the portals of any educational institution. They do not know any language and, therefore, there is just no question of teaching lip reading to them. Like it or not, their only mode of communication will always remain signs and gestures.

Unanswered Questions

An absence of a common sign language has greatly harmed the cause of the deaf. They have been left to their own devices. All of them have to innovate and improvise their own signs which they alone or those within their immediate circle can understand.

Deaf being human beings after all get involved in one or the other thing. There may be property dispute, necessitating recourse to a court of law. How does a person not knowing any language fight his case? Rely on a known person? Hardly? What reliance can be placed? There is always a possibility of double crossing. More important, will a judge or for that matter opposite party accept the interpretation by a person who can not qualify him self as an expert?

Or a deaf may be writhing in agony due to some internal disease. He urgently needs medication but how is he to explain his malady to the doctor? Indeed there are numerous such unanswered questions.

How is a deaf person to conduct his social, commercial transaction? How can he take up issues relating to property tax, inflated electric/ water bills? How is he to convince a prospective employer about his capability and how is he to protect his interest if employed at all on finding that he is being discriminated against? Surely one does not expect that a deaf person will go every where accompanied by an interpreter?

Inherent Right

To express and to be understood is an inherent, undeniable right of every human being. The deaf can not express themselves in any meaningful manner in the absence of a scientifically based sign language. Their improvised signs find no takers. Their interests are thus suborned. They find no relief. They can not obtain services of qualified interpreters for the deaf either for love or for money for the very simple reason that there are no professionally qualified interpreters for the deaf in India.

And there can be no professionally qualified interpreters without a standard or a Common Indian Sign Language. Training interpreters without a standardised sign language for the deaf is like putting a cart before the horse.

Since the ranks of the deaf are divided, Government is the least bothered. Stray attempts by deaf activists to force the hands of the Government are easily brushed aside. Organisations of the deaf boasting of all India character are happy and satisfied that there is the newsmagazine for the Hearing Handicapped on the idiot box. What more is needed? They conveniently look aside to the glaring disparity and differences in the signs used by the signers on this programme. If five signers on TV use five different signs for the same word, need any thing be said more on this score?

Urgent Need

With the social upheaval-taking place, science making rapid and big strides, families breaking up and the incidence of lawlessness increasing day by day, if the interests of deaf people are to be protected, India must have a common Indian Sign Language. It should be simple and scientific which not only deaf but also normal people can understand and use with ease.

Except for a will to act in the matter and earmarking a few lacs of rupees for development of a Common Indian Sign Language for the Deaf nothing much is needed. Sign languages are already there. The need is to achieve a synthesis and give it a scientific footing. Any educated deaf, having good connections with the deaf people across the country can help achieve the targeted objective. Persuading others to accept a sign and to give up the claim for the sign being used by them is not much of a problem.

The true work will begin once a Common Indian Sign Language comes into being. It will have to be updated through constant research. This can be possible if the job is taken up by an organisation of the adult deaf, like our Association, which has long term plans, expertise and resources. Then too propagation and popularisation will be needed. With the electronic media very much there, this too can be accomplished. Finally there can be videotaped books on sign language, which can be profitably used by the hearing and non-hearing persons alike.

The ball, in reality is now in the Government's court. How it reacts is upto it. Organisation of the deaf can at least put pressure on the Government to act in the matter and act speedily.

News You Can Use

Out of Turn Allotment of Accomodation To Disabled Central Government Employees

The facility of out of turn allotment of Government accomodation that was available to disabled central Government was withdrawn following some orders of the Supreme Court of India.

Government has since restored this facility vide its O.M. No.12035/2/97 Pol II (Pt II) dated 17th Nov. 1997 issued by Directorate of Estate, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, New Delhi.

Under these revised orders 5% of the total number of vacancies occurring in each type of houses in a year have been made available for out of turn allotment to the following categories:

On Medical Ground to: -

Govt. employees suffering from T.B., Cancer, Heart ailments, disabled persons i.e. visually challenged (total absence of sight or visual acuity not exceeding 6/90 or 20/200) deaf (hearing loss of more than 60 db) orthopaedically challenged (40% of disability) and mentally challenged, spastics.

The persons with disabilities have been given due weightage and they have been treated as a separate category for allotment of Government accomodation.

Persons interested should take advantage of these revised orders.

Income Tax Concession

Deaf persons having more than 60 db hearing loss are eligible for special deduction of Rs. 40,000 from total income in addition to other allowed deductions for calculating taxable income u/s 80 u of I.T. Act.

Persons falling in the taxable income bracket should avail this facility. In case of difficulty, office may be contacted for help.

Association's Training Programmes

Association regularly conducts the following training programmes for deaf people. To join training, it is not necessary to be a member of the association. All are most welcome.

Training Facilities.

<u>S.No.</u>	<u>Training Programme</u>	<u>Timings</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1.	Type Writing (Manual) Hindi/ English	10 A.M. To 6 P.M.	Free. No fee is charged
2.	Electronic Typewriting Hindi/ English	10 A.M. To 6 P.M.	Rs. 50 per month
3.	Computer Operations	10 A.M. To 6 P.M.	Rs. 250 per month. Duration 4 months. Scholarship available in deserving cases.
4.	Desk Top Publishing	10 A.M. To 6 P.M.	Rs. 450 per month. Duration 6 months. Scholarship available in deserving cases.

Sunday school

Association has been conducting classes on Sundays at 2 Jain Mandir Road, near Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi since long. No fee is levied. Instructions are given in Hindi, General knowledge, Mathematics etc. Timings are 10 AM to 1 PM in winter and 9 AM to 12 noon in summer.

Library Reading Room

Association's Library has nearly 3000 books and can be borrowed by members free of charges. In the reading room most well known periodicals are available. Periodicals are also lent out for home reading. Service is free to all.

Govt. Schools for the Deaf in Delhi

The following are the Government Schools for the Deaf in Delhi. These are run by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Govt. of Delhi. Admission is in June/July each year after prior registration in April/May.

S.No.	Name of School & Address	Principal Name	Phone Nos.
1.	Govt. Lady Noyce Sec. School for the Deaf Kotla Feroz Shah, Delhi Gate New Delhi-110 002	Shri R.C. Paswan	3319419 3720247
2.	Govt. Nursery/ Primary School for the Deaf, Shahdara (Currently functioning from Govt. Lady Noyce School for the Deaf) G.L.N.S. Complex, Kotla Feroz Shah New Delhi-110 002	Shri R.C. Paswan	3319419 3720247
3.	Govt. Nursery/ Primary School for the Deaf (West) Seva Kutir Complex Kingsway Camp, DELHI-110 009	Sh. Mahesh Kumar Sharma (D.D.O./HO)	7465731
	Likely to shift to: C-Block, Sector-IV Near Vishram Chowck Rohini, DELHI-110 085		
4.	Govt. Nursery/ Primary School for the Deaf PWD Barracks, B-Block Kalkaji, NEW DELHI-110 019	Ms Reena Gautam	6412196

In addition, there are the following schools for the Deaf

1.	Balwant Rai Mehta Vidya Bhawan School (Integrated School) E.G.H. Block, Masjid Moth Greater Kailash-II, NEW DELHI-110 048	Mrs. Shashi Kiran Sharma	6441798
2.	Premila Bai Chavan School for the Deaf Plot No.4 & 7, Institutional Area Dayanand Vihar, DELHI-110 092	Shri B.S. Saxena (Administrator)	2156670
3.	Asha Awwa Centre for the Physically Handicapped C/o Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt. DELHI-110 010	Col. Amar Narwat (Director)	5691997

Railway Concession Form

The Government has revised the Railway Concession Form for the Deaf people as under.

CONCESSION CERTIFICATE

Appendix No.1/47

Paste passport size photograph
Duly signed and stamped
By the issuing Doctor

Form for the purpose of grant 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 Km./Shri/Smt..... whose particulars
are furnished below, is a **TOTALLY DEAF & DUMB PERSON**.

Particulars of the totally deaf & dumb person:

- (a) Address:.....
(b) Father's/ Husband's Name.....
(c) Age (d) Sex.....
(e) Signature or left hand Thumb impression of deaf & dumb person.....

.....
(Signature of Government Doctor)

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Clear seal of Government Hospital/ Clinic

.....
Seal containing full name and Regd. No.
of the Doctor

- Note:** (1) Certificate should be issued only to **TOTALLY DEAF & DUMB PERSONS (BOTH AFFLICTIONS TOGETHER IN THE SAME PERSON)**. The photo must be signed and stamped in such a way that Doctor's signature and stamp appears partly on the photo and partly on the certificate.
- (2) The certificate is valid for five years from the date of issue. After expiry of the period of validity of the certificate, the person is accepted for the purpose of grant of concession. The original certificate will have to be produced for inspection at the time of purchaser of concessional ticket and during the journey, if demanded.
- (3) No alteration in the form is permitted.

This may be used in future. Also insist that apart from issuing doctor's stamp. Hospital stamp is also stamped on the left hand corner of certificate.

Reservation of Seats

Two seats are reserved for admission in Government College of Art, near Tilak Bridge, Tilak Marg, New Delhi, for deaf students. Interested persons should contact Principal of the College in April/ May for registration of needed assistance will be provided by office.

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

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Association Fights For Members Rights

And Wins

Always willing and ready to help its members, Association has been actively championing their cause. A recent happening is worth recording.

A certain number of Association members are employed in Nationalised Banks. Shri T. Raghava, our member is a Branch Manager in Indian Bank at Chennai. Clerks and sub-staff are many.

In Union Bank of India, our members working as sub-staff were denied promotion to clerical cadre on the ground that they had more than 40% disability. When the matter was brought to the notice of Association, it immediately took it up with the Bank, Reserve Bank of India, and the Department of Banking of the Union Finance Ministry but drew a blank.

There being no other alternative, Association helped one of its members, Shri Rajnikant Bansal to file a petition in the Court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities under Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act 1995. Simultaneously, Association impleaded itself as a party to the case.

The case came up before the Court of Chief Minister for Persons with Disabilities on 01-12-1999. Shri D.S. Chauhan, Hony. Secretary of the Association who represented Shri Bansal and Association personally argued the case, with Shri Ashok Raja acting as interpreter. Dr. J.P. Mishra represented the Bank.

Opening his argument, Shri Chauhan said that the Bank's action in not allowing its members of sub-staff to sit for departmental tests for promotion to clerks' cadre on the spurious plea that they had more than 40% disability was illogical. These members of sub-staff had been recruited against posts reserved for the deaf. To qualify for such reserved posts, a person has to have a minimum hearing loss of 6-dB or 60%.

Also when deaf persons with a hearing loss of 60% or more, having the same educational qualification, Secondary School examination, were good enough to be recruited directly to the clerical cadre, how could promotion to clerical cadre be denied to sub-staff who have additional, on the job experience of many years?

Finally when some other banks e.g. Punjab & Sind Bank had allowed promotion to deaf sub-staff to clerical cadre despite a hearing loss of more than 40%, how could Union Bank of India, also a nationalised Bank act differently?

To clinch the issue, Shri Chauhan argued that with the enactment of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act 1995 and as provided under its Section No.38 discrimination on ground of disability can not be made.

The Counsel for Union Bank of India appreciating the correct stand taken by Association assured that his Bank was doing every thing possible to advance the cause of the persons with disabilities. He sought adjournment to enable him to get the Bank's approval for revising promotional norms in the light of PWD Act 1995.

At the next hearing held on 26-07-2000 the Counsel for the Bank submitted copies of Board's resolution adopting revised promotional criterion in the light of PWD Act 1995 and said that avenues of advancement for persons with disabilities were now open for promotion not only to clerical cadre but to officers ranks provided they had prescribed qualifications and passed departmental tests as per the norms.

Chief Commissioner For Persons with Disabilities while welcoming Bank's decision asked a pointed question, whether the complaint Shri Rajnikant Bansal will be allowed to sit for departmental test and given promotion if he passes the test? Bank's Counsel replied in affirmative.

Shri Chauhan then thanked the Chief Commissioner and the Bank's Counsel for having done justice to Association's members and assured that Association will extend all possible help to its members to prepare for departmental test and qualify for promotion.

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

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DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

PROGRAMMES

FOR

GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATIONS (2000-2001)

PROGRAMMES:

<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>DATE/ MONTH</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
1. Triangular Cricket Championship	November, 2000	To be decided
2. Children's on the Spot Painting Championship	8 th Dec. 2000	<u>Bal Bhawan</u> Modern School
3. New Year Get together		Nehru Park
4. 29 th Delhi Games of the Deaf	Feb.2001 (2 days)	J.L.N. Stadium
5. National Seminar on "Development of Linguistic Skills of the Deaf"	April 2001	India International Centre or in one of the nearby Complex
6. National Mime/Magic Competitions	<u>June 2001</u> July 2001	To be decided
7. Annual Picnic	15 th Aug.2001	Lodhi Garden
8. Seminar/ Conference Exhibition-cum-Auction of handicrafts of Deaf, Paintings by deaf – normal Artists Valedictory Function Presentation of Badhir Bandhu Awards Beauty Contests Pranay Sammelan etc.	5,6,7 Oct. 2001	Banquet Hall of some Five Star Hotel

**DELHI ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
ORGANISING COMMITTEE
FOR
GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATIONS (2000-2001)**

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

DESIGNATION	NAME
PATRON	Shri Vijai Kapoor Lt. Governor, Delhi
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VICE CHAIRMANS	Shri Rajendra Gupta Managing Director Rampur Engg. Co. Ltd. Shri Vijay Goel Member of Parliament Shri C.M. John Chairman, Disability Committee New Delhi Y.M.C.A.
ADVISORS	Dr. Shakuntala Dawesar Past President Rotary Club Delhi Safdarjung Mrs. Jyoti Siddharth
PRESIDENT	Shri B.N.Kaul
VICE PRESIDENTS	Shri Onkar Sharma Shri Ramesh Gupta Shri Suraj Prakash Shri Pran Nath Bahl Ms Prabha Shah
ORGANISING SECRETARY	Shri D.S.Chauhan
HONY. TREASURER	Shri Rajiv Goel
MEMBERS	Shri Lalit Thakur Shri E.K. Jose Shri Suresh Ahuja Shri A.S.Narayanan Shri Mange Ram Saini Shri Dhananjay Bansal

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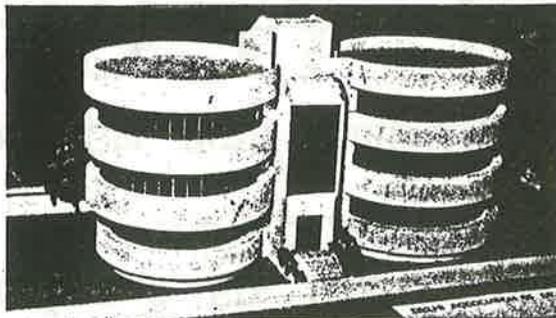
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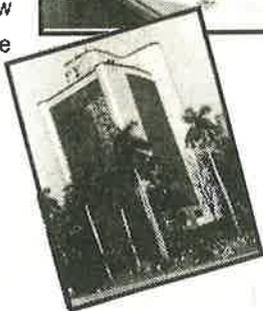


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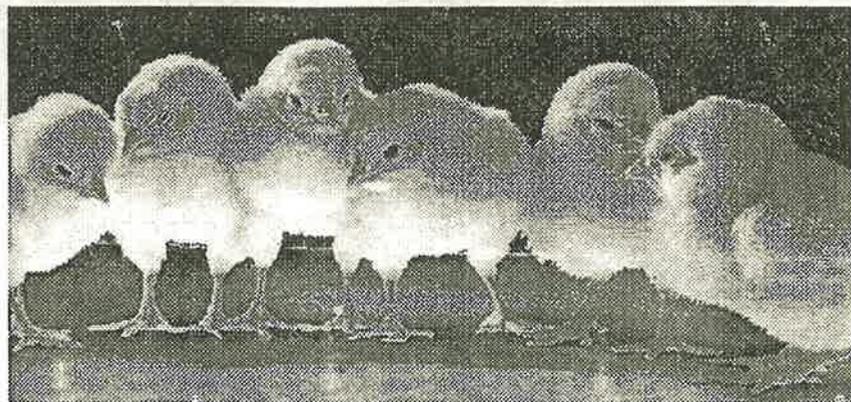
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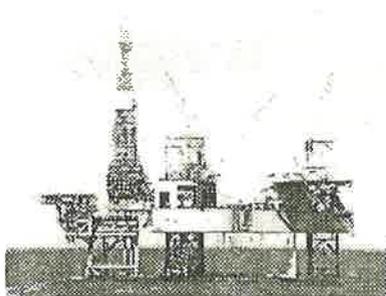
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