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From

The Additional Chief Secy. to Govt. Haryana,
Labour Department.

To

- ✓ 1. The Labour Commissioner, Haryana, Chandigarh.
- 2. The Director, ISI Health Care, Haryana

Memo No. 2/29/2015 - 21 ab
Dated Chandigarh the 11.2.2016

Handwritten notes:
2-41
Subject: 7

Subject: 7 2-41 Implementing the Accessible India Campaign in Haryana.

Reference on the subject noted above.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of D.O. No. 19-DD (Dh)2016 dated 25.01.2016 received from Chief Secretary Haryana with the request to follow the directions as given that by coordinating with local and corporate donors and other sources, apart from appropriate provisions in the budget, arrangements may be made to make the existing buildings, public places etc. Accessible & Barrier Free. Such provisions should be made in future in all the new and ongoing projects

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Received dated 25/5/16
3-5/16

Signature: Baljit Singh
Superintendent Labour
for Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana
Labour Department

D.S. Dhesi. IAS



D.O. No. 19-50(DW) 20/6

Chief Secretary, Haryana,
Chandigarh - 160 001.

E.mail : cs@hry.nic.in

Dated 25-01-2016

Subject: Implementing the Accessible India Campaign in Haryana.

Dear Administrative Secretary,

I would like to draw your attention to the subject noted above and to say that Section 46 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides that:

"The appropriate Governments and local authorities shall, within the limits of their economic capacity and development, provide for –

- a. Ramps in public buildings;
- b. Adaption of toilets for wheel chair users;
- c. Braille symbols and auditory signals in elevators/lifts;
- d. Ramps in hospitals, primary health centres and other medical care and rehabilitation institutions."

In order to provide easy access, I would like that all the Govt. / public buildings in the State should be made "Disabled friendly" and ramp provision etc. as per convenience to disabled persons should be made. The details of the **Handbook on Barrier Free and Accessibility** is given in the downloadable booklet on Accessible India (Sugamya Bharat) campaign on the site http://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/HandbookonBarrier_compressed.pdf link. By making public places disabled friendly you also make them automatically "Elderly Friendly" as well.

The Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment has on the International Disability Day (3rd December) announced that all Public buildings / Government Buildings in Haryana should be made disabled friendly. Government of India in its Accessible India campaign has been laying stress on this aspect and instead of 'Viklang' the word 'Divyang' has been advised for usage.

Accordingly, I suggest that by coordinating with local and corporate donors and other sources, apart from appropriate provisions in the budget, arrangements may be made to make the existing buildings, public places etc. Accessible & Barrier Free. Such provisions should be made in future in all the new and ongoing projects.

Yours sincerely

(D.S. Dhesi)

Ms. Shashi Bala Gulati, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana,
Labour & Employment Department

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'Make buildings disabled-friendly, let nation grow'

Victor Pineda — named by US President Obama to the US Access Board, which promotes disability rights through accessible design and development of standards for transportation, built environment, communication and information technology — was in India recently. He spoke to Rema Nagarajan about the need for research universities, civil society and the government to work together to bring sustainable change:

■ **Why do you say this is a historic opportunity for creating accessibility?**

Never in the history of humanity have we experienced such rapid urbanisation. We are experiencing tremendous growth of built environment. In the next 20 years, we will double all built environment on

this planet. So we have a tremendous opportunity to build it right. All my discussions in India with architects have shown that the cost of adding provisions for accessibility is marginal, about 1% of the total construction cost. This 1% cost creates a lifetime of returns as the building is open to more people, employment is open to more people and people with disabilities can become tax payers who contribute to the growth of the nation. We cannot continue to build in a way that is not accessible as it will cost three to four times more to fix the mistakes. So the time to act is now, not yesterday, not tomorrow.

■ **How can an entire society's attitude towards disability be changed?**

It is really up to everyone to create opportunities to include. But this cannot be done by voluntary measures. You

need a very strong regime for enforcement. You need to have the authority to exercise your right and obtain injunctive relief because discrimination or exclusion is a form of violence. Amartya Sen's framework of capabilities greatly influenced my doctoral work. Sen says development is about giving people the capabilities to live the life they value.

Disability is not the property of an individual, rather it is the experience of an individual in a particular environment. So, in a sense, the environment is disabling the individual. So people with disabilities are being deprived of the capabilities to live the life they value.

They are being deprived of their fundamental freedoms.

■ **How can governments solve a problem of social attitude?**

Governments cannot solve the issue alone but they do play an important role to structure and create the terms in which meaningful change can be brought about. Public funding is meant for everybody. Any construction project that has even one rupee from the public sector should be used to make the building fully accessible.

Private locations that have a public use like restaurants, theatres and so on built after a particular date should also be accessible and those built before the date should not be given permission to renovate till they bring it up to the accessibility code. No public fund should be used in a way that discriminates against people with disabilities.

For the full interview, log on to www.timesofindia.com

