

November 16, 2016

**Shri Sitaram Yechury**  
**General Secretary, CPI(M)**  
**Leader of the CPI(M) in Parliament**

Dear Shri Yechury ji,

We representatives of various organisations working among persons with disabilities are approaching you to seeking your intervention to see that the government comes forward with an Action Taken Report on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 in the ongoing Winter Session of parliament.

Sir, you will recall that the Bill was introduced to fulfill an international obligation, India having signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The Bill, introduced in February 2014 in the Rajya Sabha, was referred to the Department related Standing Committee of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The Standing Committee after consultations at various levels submitted its report in May 2015. Subsequently, the Prime Minister constituted a Group of Ministers to go into the Bill.

Unfortunately, though eighteen months have passed since the Standing Committee made its recommendations, the government is yet to come out with an Action Taken Report, spelling out its stand vis-à-vis the recommendations of the Standing Committee as also the various concerns raised by disability rights organisations.

The delay in clarifying the government's stand and proceeding further thereafter is giving rise to justifiable apprehensions about the seriousness of the government as far as the Bill, which impacts the life of one of the most marginalized sections of the country, is concerned.

We are jointly conducting a nation wide campaign on this issue. It is as part of this campaign that we are approaching you and seeking your intervention. We will also be holding demonstrations in state capitals on November 21 followed by a demonstration in Delhi on December 3, coinciding with World Disability Day.

We urge upon you to take up the issue with the government as also on the floor of the House, to exert pressure to ensure that the government comes out with an Action Taken Report in the Winter session of parliament.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

Signed on behalf of the following organisations:

1. National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled
2. National Federation of the Blind
3. All India Federation of Deaf
4. National Association of the Blind
5. Rashtriya Viklang Manch
6. Parivar- National Confederation of Parents Organisations of PwIDDs
7. Human Rights Law Network
8. Federation of Disability Rights
9. Disabled Employees Association of Railways
10. Sense International
11. The Leprosy Mission Trust of India
12. Action for Autism
13. CREA

14. Families Alliance on Mental Illness, National Network
15. JNU Visually Challenged Students Forum

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