

National Consultation Meeting on the Draft Country Report on UNCRPD

(17th January 2011)

A two-day National Consultation Meeting for drafting first Country Report of India on United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) was held here yesterday. Speaking on the occasion the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Mukul Wasnik said that India was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the UNCRPD which emphasized the need for special focus on women and children with disabilities. The Minister further said that inputs from Central Ministries and State Governments have been sought in preparing the first report and the task of drafting India's first Country Report has been assigned to NALSAR Law University, Hyderabad. He also said that a comprehensive report on various measures taken under the Convention and the progress made so far will be submitted within two years of its coming into force and subsequently for every four years after making consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations.

The UNCRPD is amongst the few Conventions which has provision for National Monitoring. The Minister also added that several well known initiatives such as constitution of the Sudha Kaul Committee to formulate a new disability rights law; XII Plan exercise for empowerment of persons with disabilities have been taken in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their organizations to fulfill the obligations under UNCRPD. This is the situation under the 1995 Act and the pre-CRPD laws and programs. This situation will improve as laws in conformity with the CRPD are incorporated in the statute book and the XII Plan initiatives take off. The minister expressed confidence in saying that the situation will improve for the better with the active involvement of various organizations who are working for the rights of persons with disabilities. The Minister also appealed to the representatives of Central Ministries and State Governments to actively participate in the meeting and bring to notice any errors and omissions and important achievements of their Ministries or States, which can be incorporated in the Country Report.

Those who were present during the meeting included Secretary, M/o Social Justice and Empowerment Shri K.M. Acharya, Addl. Secretary Smt. Sangita Gairola, Chairperson Rehabilitation Council of India ,Maj. Gen. Ian Cardozo, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disability, Prasanna Kumar Pincha and other senior officers of the Ministry.
