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Hon.Shree Narendrabhai Modi

Prime Minister of India

Government of India

South Block, Raisina Hill

New Delhi-110011, India

17th December 2017

Dear Hon. PM Mr Modiji

Re: Old Rupees 500 and 1000 Notes declared as not cashable

I, as President of the Largest Hindu Organisation in UK, National Congress of Gujarati Organisations have sent 3 letters to you, Foreign Minister and Urjit Patel, Governor- Bank of India expressing concerns of British Citizens of Indian Origin who travels to India almost every year either on holiday or to meet their kith and kin bringing back with them Indian Rupees left over having cashed their foreign Currency. (All these letters are visible on our website www.ukncgo.org). Our letters to PM Theresa May, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Mayor Sadiq Khan are being responded within days of me writing to them which is commendable unlike treatment our communication to Indian Government.

There has been no response from you or others to address the concerns of the British Citizens of Indian Decent which is highly improper as these people has been your supporters in UK and bridge between India and UK, they came to see you in thousands in November 2014 at Wembley during your visit to UK.

In your numerous speeches you had re-assured terming us, the British Citizens of Indian Origin, as NRI's, that under your leadership you will take care of NRI's concerns. Your Government's recent announcement NRI terminology has been re-defined as Indian Passport holders residing outside India who can exchange their old Rupees until 30th of June 2017. Definition of NRI has caused enormous outrage and confusion amongst the British Citizens of Indian Origin as they have been not only side lined but they are no longer regarded by your Government as NRI's which was their perception for years. In fact holding OCI or PIO Certificates has not made any difference

I am now seeking your assistance to let NCGO know what the British Citizens of Indian Origin can do with old Rupees which they brought with them from their various visits to India. Please kindly

guide us as a matter of urgency as British Citizens of Indian Origin are despondent and angry and feel let down by your Government whom they have supported wholeheartedly.

Other complaints NCGO is getting from British Indians (I am redefining as per your Government's new definition of NRI's) who are in India on visit and those who have cut short their trip to India that they are having horrendous time cashing their Sterling Currency to Rupees.

PM Modiji, we hailed your declaration of Demonetisation when it was announced but since then we have seen that whole affair has been mis-managed and the charm of your announcement is now waned away amongst British Indians.

It was your Government's short sightedness that Tourists welfare has been disregarded and this will affect India for years to come. Tourism brings millions in revenue, most of the Countries spend Millions to attract Tourists who take care of them, unfortunately , the British Indian Tourist and other Tourists had nightmare during their trip to India who are or were literally confined to their Hotels as they have or had no Rupees to spend. How can you be so naive to kill the milking cow?

I can only say that execution of the Demonetisation has been very poor and has harmed the Tourism to India.

Your Government should have known that October to February it is a peak Tourist Season, your Demonetisation was announced on 8th November 2016 which literally made British Indians Refugees in India, they could not use their old rupees legally which were obtained against foreign currency and they could not cash their foreign currency for their day to expenses after your announcement which has literally forced Hundreds of British Indians to cut short their trip to India wasting their travel expenses and their holiday.

In fact I have also cancelled my plans to travel to India on 18th February for 3 weeks stay in India which I undertake almost every year with my family members totalling 12 of us. We are now going to Thailand instead.

PM Modiji I urge you to make life easy for British Indians who have left over old rupees. Please allow them to exchange their Old Rupees within next 12 months when they travel to India and open special windows in every Bank in India for Tourists to cash as much Foreign Currency they wish to cash without any hassle without any delay. This must be done now with proper press releases.

Other concerns British Indians has that there is no RBI Collection point in Gujarat, a state attracting highest Foreign Investment has no RBI Office in Gujarat. PM Modiji please act before British Indians feels alienated from India and from BJP I hope my communication on behalf of NCGO, largest Hindu Organisation in India, will be responded to.

Regards


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