From: MJF LION MADANBHAI SURA

PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

DIST. 323D2

“AQUA HOUSE” 263/1 SINHAGAD

ROAD, NEAR PARVATI OVER BRIDGE

PUNE-411030.

President of the International Federation of Ageing, Members of different countries attending this Conference and Dr. Vinod Shah and his better half Mrs. Meenatai.

I am attending this conference as a member of the International Federation of “Ageing”, I would like to put before you some of my thoughts on the subject of “AGEING”.

The concept of the Senior Citizen, formulated in India, only in the last 25-30 years. Indian civilization, one of the oldest, in the world, valued the joint family where the elderly members of the household were respected. The parents and teachers were respected. The parents and teachers were considered as the Gods!!

However, with rapid industrialization, and urbanization, the joint family system is slowly disintegrating. The young generation prefer separate families, creating increasing numbers of senior citizens who have to live and care on their own. With improved medical facilities, the average lifespan has also increased, compounding the issues, related to the senior citizens.

The developer western countries, as well as Japan and Australia have enacted several bills and regulations, to help and support the senior citizens, including financial protection, and social security. In India, even, after 60 years of independene, the government is undertaking, and implementing hardly any scheme, to resolve the issues of the elderly population. Thus, the role of NGOs serving the elderly population, of the society is crucial in the developing countries like India.

Lions Club International, a social organization formed in 1917 in the U.S., is actively serving in India through its clubs. Among various activities undertaken by Lions Clubs, they also support NGOs serving the elders.

Senior Citizen Forum bring the elders together where they can Exchange their ideas, share their experiences. The Forum can organize various activities for elders like birthday and festival celebrations, health and exercise education, arranging the picnics and trips etc..

There is a great demand in urban Indian cities for development of Townships, specifically devoted for elders. To construct and operate such townships, NGOs need the technical and financial assistance from the government as well as from the international agencies.