



**PUBLIC.RESOURCE.ORG** ~ *A Nonprofit Corporation*

---

**Public Works for a Better Government**

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Shri Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister of India  
7 Race Course Drive  
New Delhi 110 011  
India

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Shri Sam Pitroda suggested that I write to you and enclose a copy of the India National Building Code (2005), which my nonprofit organization has formatted and printed against the wishes of the government's Bureau of Indian Standards.

The National Building Code is a vital government document, governing the safe construction of buildings in India. The National Building Code costs Rs 12,440.00 in India and the Bureau insists that all Indian citizens—including engineering students and government officials charged with enforcing public safety—pay this fee. Because copyright is asserted on this government document, the Bureau maintains that my noncommercial republication of this document is contrary to law.

The National Building Code—as well as the 19,000 other Indian Standards we have posted for noncommercial use on the Internet—is important for the creation of jobs and the furtherance of economic activity in India. The standards represent the codified knowledge not only for how to create buildings properly, but in vital fields such as agriculture, public health, water management, and industries such as construction, textiles, food, and power generation. Indian Standards create jobs and insure the public safety.

The National Building Code and the other 19,000 Indian Standards are also vital to education of the youth and those wishing to enter the professions. By reading these documents, we can help strengthen education in India and help create a new generation of technical professionals.

When we post these standards, we add considerable value to these important documents. Many of them have been recoded into modern web standards, we provide bulk access so a student can download all the documents in their field of study. The online version of the documents include extensive links to other standards, redrawn graphics suitable for including in new mobile applications, and provide access to the blind and visually impaired.

This is the promise of the Internet for innovation and broader access, but the Bureau of Indian Standards has objected to our efforts and has refused to renew our contract for updated standards.

You may find the entire collection of Indian Standards we have made available for noncommercial use at the following Internet address:

<https://law.resource.org/pub/in/>

Shri Sam Pitroda and I wish to continue this effort, making the standards ever more useful. We have offered to host “hackathons” in India, bringing together the incredible talent in the engineering programs in Indian universities and asking them to help make Indian Standards ever more useful. We have offered to work with the Bureau and to donate all the work my group has done so that they in turn may make these standards even better. This is the promise of the Internet, to provide this kind of innovation and access to government information.

I am writing to you today because of recent announcement of the “Make in India” program, and the emphasis in your speeches and actions in making government work more effectively and efficiently. The Indian Standards we have posted are vital for small business and international trade and play a significant role in educating the next generation of entrepreneurs. Most importantly, government officials in the states and national government do not consult these safety standards as often as they should because of the high costs and licensing requirements imposed by the Bureau. This attitude seems to work against the ambitious and important goals you have outlined and I am hopeful you will take action to encourage the broader dissemination of Indian Standards.

Please let me know if I can provide any further information and I thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

With best regards,

Carl Malamud  
Public.Resource.Org

cc: Shri Sam Pitroda