



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
( RAILWAY BOARD )

**THE COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES  
ON  
INDIAN RAILWAYS**

**REPORT**

**Part III**

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## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### Developing Leadership Qualities & Spirit of Reliance

The National Policy on Education stresses the need for development of leadership qualities and a spirit of self-reliance being developed in the school-going children. The defence authorities run an adventure course close to Railways' Holiday Home, Pahalgam for children of age group 11-17 years and 8-10 years. Adventure training course comprises trekking, out-door living, rock climbing, learning yoga, judo, karate and participation in group recreational activities. The adventure training courses run by defence authorities could be suitably adopted and organised by Railways in the Railway Holiday home at Pahalgam for children of railway employees as a pilot project and depending on its success, extended to other well known Holiday Homes.

(Para 1-7, Pt.I)

### Introductory - Educational Facilities on Railways Reviewed In Light of New Educational Policy

High priority accorded by Prime Minister to the need for restructuring and reorientation of education to make it more pertinent to the state of country's economic development.

Clear indication that Union Govt. would make a substantial contribution for giving effect to Directive Principle ~~enjoining~~ availability of free education to children upto 14 years.

Review of educational facilities on Railways undertaken having regard to above.

Apply For  
Grant From  
State  
Authorities

State Departments of Education of Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are not averse to entertain requests for giving even 100% grant for running of schools in railway colonies provided :

- i) medium of instruction in the school was the approved regional language of the state;
- ii) management entrusted to an autonomous body which could be constituted by the General Manager. Model for such autonomous body available in ICF/Perambur where an autonomous organisation nominated by the G.M. with FA & CAO as Chairman and Law Officer as Secretary exercises overall management of all schools in ICF Colony including ICF Higher Secondary School, Perambur which has 3500 students and Tamil as the medium of instruction and receives 100% grant for it from the state government.

Apprehension expressed by Railways that, after handing over of schools to state authorities, children of railway employee may not get admission, does not appear to be founded on facts as 85% of the children studying in ICF Higher Secondary School, Perambur for which grant is received from Tamilnadu Govt. are children of railway staff.

Austerity Type  
Schools  
Substandard  
In Quality  
And  
Facilities

Apprehension that standard may get diluted after handing over over to the state authorities also exaggerated for a review prepared by the Railway Board itself in 1977 frankly admitted "The Austerity Type Schools are in an extremely unsatisfactory condition."

*The fact is that the Austerity and other schools run on Railways are in the context of National Educational Policy substandard - both in quality and the facilities for imparting education.*

*It is important that educational institutions whether run by Railways or by any other authority should conform to standards laid down in the National Educational Policy.*

*Prudent, therefore, to pursue with state authorities question of extending 100% grant for meeting at least the expenditure on teachers.*

*This would leave Railways with irreducible problem of looking after management of schools in English medium and in languages other than the regional language approved by State authorities for aid.*

*Survey of each of the educational institutions on Railways to be carried out according to parameters indicated in the Programme of Action (Ministry of Human Resource Development) and a time bound programme drawn up to make up deficiencies of accommodation, equipment, range of subjects, particularly, SUPW & improve facilities for library, games and sports, extra-curricular activities, etc.etc.*

*Time is the essence of the matter and Railways should initiate positive measures to bring up educational facilities for children of railway employees upto the standard envisaged by National Policy on Education.*

*(Ch.I & II, Pt.II)*

Middle, High & Higher Sec. Schools Programme of Action envisages inter-alia :-

- i) Additional class rooms and laboratory facilities
- ii) Equipment and laboratories to be kept in working order.
- iii) Improve teacher competence.
- iv) Give effect to core curriculum along with textual material which are being developed.
- v) Apart from Humanities, Science and Commerce subjects to be introduced, vocational stream to be provided in select schools.

Programme envisages Central Government's assistance particularly for additional class rooms and introduction of vocational stream.

Railways should keep close watch on concrete action taken in implementation of policy and ensure that contemporaneous action is taken in respect of railway schools.

Meantime, Railway may initiate following action :-

- i) Effect general improvement in upkeep and maintenance of schools with moderate outlay ;
- ii) Expand facilities for teaching of Science subjects to meet persistent demand ;
- iii) Develop attractive library facilities ;
- iv) Introduce forward looking subjects like training in computers ; &

- v) *In general provide facilities for games and sports and extra-curricular activities including camps to build up leadership qualities.*

*Deficiencies and shortcomings to be identified by detailed survey as recommended in Chapter II and a time-bound programme drawn up to bring about desired improvement.*

*(Ch.III)*

*Training  
Course In  
Computers*

*Pursue with Min.of Human Resource Development, allocation of computers to well-established high schools like Southern Rly.Hr.Sec.School, Madras (English medium); keeping also in view equitable regional distribution.*

*(Ch.IV)*

*Intermediate  
Colleges*

*Watch developments and take timely and tactful measures to see that the intermediate colleges are merged into main stream.*

*No question of upgrading intermediate colleges to the degree level.*

*(Ch.V)*

*Rly.Degree  
College,  
Secunderabad*

*Students have done well in Science subjects. Performance in B.Com to be improved. Improve library & science facilities. Strengthen counselling service. Provide coaching facilities for recruitment to state and central service examination.*

*College complex needs to be beautified.*

*(Ch.VI)*

Teaching  
Staff In  
Rly.  
Schools

Since 1976, power to recruit teachers delegated to Railways. Since scales of pay in railway schools same as recommended by Min.of Human Resource Development it is but appropriate of recruitment of teachers to railway schools should be similar to those followed for central schools.

Annual confidential report form to keep track of teachers' performance, to be devised and enforced on lines similar to that obtaining in central schools.

Teachers should be given all supportive materials including books, publications, audio-visual aids, etc.

Devise and institutionalise system for training as well as refresher courses for teachers of various disciplines on lines similar to those obtaining in central schools.

Head of educational institution to be selected by a Selection Committee chaired by HOD, having a senior educationist from outside.

Railways should ensure action to resolve all genuine grievances of teachers and other staff in railway schools and not let them pile up.

Develop pragmatic parameters having regard to standards recommended by Min.of Human Resource Development, NCERT, state authorities, etc., for determining strength of teachers in railway schools.



Govt. to take early decision on revision of scales of pay and allowances and improvement of cadre for teachers on Report of National Commission on Teachers (1985). Railways to review position in light of government's decision and implement it at earliest.

(Ch.VII & VIII)

Role of  
Rly. Womens'  
Welfare  
Organisation

While appreciating their welfare effort, administration should ensure that schools run in railway colonies by Womens' Welfare Organisation have proper facilities for imparting education as well as encouraging co-curricular activities and sports & games.

Imperative to ensure that teachers appointed have requisite qualifications and are paid in accordance with pay scales and allowances prescribed for such non-official institutions.

Railway Womens' Welfare Organisation may be encouraged to take special interest in developing pre-primary school facilities and help voluntarily to impart instruction in SUPW, particularly, for girls' stream.

(Ch.IX)

Parent  
Teachers'  
Association

Constitution for Parent Teachers' Association to be developed in consultation with state authorities. Should meet twice a year to review position and advance timely suggestions.

(Ch.X)

Counselling  
Service For  
Students

School teachers to be got trained in counselling so as to provide competent advice to students.

(Ch.XI)

Trophy For  
Best School  
In Zone

Award Trophy to Railway School adjudged best in Zone. In addition, carry a grant of Rs.2000-2500 for effecting improvement in school laboratories, extra curricular activities etc.

(Ch.XII)

Development  
Of Decla-  
mation And  
Debating  
Skills

Arrange debate and declamation contests at zonal level on subjects of national importance to encourage development of communication skill among students.

(Ch.XIII)

Encourage-  
ment Of  
Sports &  
Athletics

Introduce a few select track and other events in the All India Railway Sports Meet for participation by children studying in railway schools.

Similar events to be arranged at Zonal level.

Develop base by providing ground and requisite sports gear to schools.

Railways's nationally known coaches may lend a helping hand.

(Ch.XIV)

Encouraging  
Affiliation  
To CBSE

While encouraging Railway schools to follow curricula laid down by C.B.S.E. and taking examination conducted by that body, necessary to proceed with great patience and understanding as there is marked difference in standard and style of marking of papers by CBSE and State School Boards of Examination.

(Ch.XV)

Upkeep And  
Proper Main-  
tenance Of Rly.  
Educational  
Institutions

Maintenance of railway educational institutions very poor. Clarify to GMs that they have power to sanction expenditure in respect of existing railway schools by making lumpsum provision in budget and this power should be availed of to bring about the desired improvement in maintenance and provision of minimum essential facilities like toilets, drinking water, furniture and fittings, fans, etc.

Proposed Works Programme should be scrutinised by Ex.ec.Dir.(Estt), Rly.Bd. to make sure that requisite provision for proper upkeep and maintenance of Rly schools has been made therein.

Committee comprising DPO, DEN and DAO to visit once a quarter Rly schools with enrolment of 500 and more students and once in 6 months schools having 251-500 students.

DRM and GM also to pay visits.

(Ch.XVI)

Scope For  
Improvement  
In Central  
Schools

Railways should take active interest in designing, developing and functioning of Central Schools particularly those in Project Sector.

Should try and obtain services of dedicated and well versed persons with several years of service to go to head the Schools during foundational years.

*Introduce vocational stream by carefully selecting disciplines, where Railways could provide facilities and expertise and where employment opportunities are known to exist. Other vocational disciplines under broad heads of business, commerce, health and paramedical etc. for which employment potential exists may also be developed in consultation with industries, business houses, banking, medical and health authorities.*

*Backward linkages for vocational stream to cover students in classes IX and X to be developed.*

*Vocational faculty may develop extension facilities for training "drop out" children as craftsmen and technicians. Two Central schools in Project sector could undertake it as a pioneering responsibility and depending on its success, extend it to others.*

*Schools should have larger facilities for science stream as compared to humanities say in the ratio of 3:1.*

*Build sound basis in Mathematics.*

*Make concerted efforts to introduce computer courses as also get computers.*

*Equipment in laboratories to be maintained properly and kept upto date.*

*Library to be well stocked and imaginatively designed with "open shelf" system and arrangements for quiet study. Audio-visual aids including cassettes and video tapes of educational interest to be stocked.*

*Co-curricular activities, sports & games should be considered as essential and encouraged.*

*Hostel facilities may be provided on pilot basis in one or two Central Schools for children of staff working on Branch lines. Depending on response extend the facility.*

*Beautify school complexes by planting suitable trees and shrubbery*

*(Ch.XVII)*

Avail Of  
"Navodaya  
Vidyalaya"  
Facilities  
For Children  
Of Branch  
Line Staff

*Union Government are keen that "Novodaya Vidyalayas", which are the latest innovation in making available quality educational facilities at the grass root level (one school in each district), are established on priority basis. Railways may take advantage of this opportunity by offering land on branch lines fulfilling the prescribed conditions.*

*"Novodaya Vidyalayas" would offer excellent opportunities to children of branch line staff to avail of quality educational facilities.*

*(Ch.XVIII)*

Establishment  
Of Poly-  
technics On  
Railways

*Persistent representations made to Railway authorities to establish polytechnics as adjunct to production*

units and large workshops so that children of railway employees could get an opportunity to be technically trained and thus improve chances of employment.

Government intend to set up 100 more vocational institutions during VII Plan.

Railways should avail of opportunity to get established at least one polytechnic, adjacent to large workshops/ production units, in each of the four regions.

If constraint of financial resources comes in way, it may be worthwhile to have a second look at proposals for establishing central schools in Project Sector, for facilities upto schools level are bound to be provided by government authorities as per National Policy on Education

(Ch.XIX)

Development      Establish library-cum-reading room facilities in large  
Of Library      rail way colonies having 5000 or more staff.  
cum-Reading  
Room Facilities  
In Large  
Rail way  
Colonies

May be treated as an Extension centre of leading railway institution for officers and earnest endeavour made to involve wives of these officers in the constructive and creative activities for the welfare of railwaymen's families which could be started in the library-cum-reading room by suitably staggering the hours.

(Ch.XX)

Grant-  
In-Aid

Since government authorities are to extend substantial assistance to non-official educational institutions, may advise the non-official organisations running schools in railway colonies to seek aid from government authorities rather than to press for ad-hoc assistance from Railways.

(Ch.XXII)

Subsidised  
Hostels

In some cases, capacity of subsidised hostels utilised is less than 50%. Overhead expenditure per student in most cases is Rs.1500 to Rs.2000 per year and in some cases as high as Rs.7000/-.

There is no "built-in" integral link of these hostels with any academic institution, thus leaving a vital gap in ensuring a modicum of general discipline.

Two subsidised hostels at Patna, and Alambagh (Lucknow) had to be closed down in recent years because of indiscipline.

Students residing in hostels are mostly studying in colleges or professional institutions and a substantial number out of them are children of senior subordinate staff drawing pay exceeding Rs.579/- per month.

Fourth Pay Commission has recommended Rs.150/- as hostel allowance instead of Rs.60/- obtaining at present. Persuade students staying in Railways' subsidised hostels to find accommodation in the hostel of the institutions or a recognised hostel near it, as they are now eligible for a hostel subsidy of Rs.150/- per month. In case of children of staff in the revised scales of pay upto Rs.579/-, they may be given additional subsidy of Rs.150/- per month per child out of Staff Benefit Fund which should be provided with additional funds to that extent.

(Ch.XXIII)

Supply  
Of Free  
Uniforms

Most of the railway staff will now be receiving a gross remuneration of Rs.1000/- or more per month and it should, therefore, be possible for them to meet the cost of uniform. To meet marginal cases, where parents of a child studying in a railway school or in a school run in railway colony are in receipt of remuneration of less than Rs.1000/- per month, subsidy to the extent of Rs.100/- per child (for a maximum of two children) may be given per year from the Staff Benefit Fund. Staff Benefit Fund should be reimbursed this amount.

(Ch.XXIV)