

Sub: Welfare measures for Sahayaks (Licensed Porters/Coolies)

"Following is the dashboard item of Hon'ble MR regarding welfare measures for Sahayaks. Consider following options:- School faculties for their kids, Health benefits, Insurance Equipment/tools for ferrying luggage Shelter with bathrooms, water, TV, Housing Scheme etc."

Comments have been sought from concerned directorates and the position is as under:-

Annexure "A"

1. School facilities for their kids:

Comments furnished by Establishment Dte are as under:-

It is stated that education is a State Subject on concurrent List and it is the responsibility of State Governments/Department of Education in the Ministry of Human resources Development to provide schools. However, Railways in the past have provided schools purely as a welfare measure at places with concentration of Railway employees where the educational facilities provided by other agencies were either non-existent or inadequate to meet the requirements of Railway wards. Further in 1995-96, free educational facilities has been extended to the wards of Licensed Porters in the schools run by Railways and Railwaymen's Organisation/Mahila Samities. (Annexure 'A')

Annexure "B"

2. Health benefits:

Comments furnished by Health t Dte are as under:

- a. Licensed porters are eligible for free outdoor medical treatment for self, wife and dependent children only at Railway hospitals and health units. However, charges are levied for all laboratory, X-ray examination and other investigations.
- b. Free medical attendance and treatment facilities as indoor patient (excluding diet) will be available in Railway Hospitals only when the licensed porters (Sahayak) grievous injuries while carrying passengers' luggage. This will be certified by the Station Master/Station Superintendent concerned that the party was hurt while working as a licensed porter in the Railway premises and as also about his identify. A free Railway Pass may be issued to cover his journey to the line doctor/hospital/health unit where necessary. (Annexure 'B')

Annexure "C"

3. Insurance:

Comments furnished by Establishment Dte are as under:

The Sahayaks are neither railway employees nor contract labours. At present, therefore, Railways does not have any Insurance Scheme specifically meant for Sahayaks. However, there is no bar for their enrollment under open schemes such as "Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna" (PMSBY) & 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna' (PMJJBY) as circulated vide Railway Board's letter No: 2018/E(LL)/RSBY/1 dated 03.08.2018 (Annexure 'C')

Annexure "D"

4. Equipment/tools for ferrying luggage.

Provision exists for free use of Railways light trollies/hand barrows, wherever available, by Sahayaks (licensed porters) for carriage of passenger's luggage. Apart from this, no proposal with regard to provision of upgraded tools for use of Sahayaks to carry heavy baggage of the passengers is under consideration. (Annexure 'D')

5 & 6 Shelter with bathrooms, water, TV

Comments furnished by Land & Amenities Dte are as under:

These are policy matters to be decided by Board. These are only applicable for Railway employees. Besides this, all of these has huge financial repercussion. (Annexure 'E')

However, in view of the persistent demands by Sahayaks particularly during inspection of high officials such as Hon'ble MR, CRB etc, accordingly, it is proposed to extend the scope of the following welfare schemes being provided to Sahayaks (Licensed Porters):-

S.N.	Item	Existing Benefits	Proposed benefits
1	Uniform	Two red shirts are supplied every year as Uniform and one woollen shirt is also given them once in two years in lieu of one red shirt	It is proposed that Three red shirts be given to them and one woollen shirt every year
2.	Extension of Privilege pass facilities	One set of complimentary cheque pass for self only.	It is proposed that two sets of Privilege Ticket Order (PTO) for self and spouse in second/sleeper class be given in addition to complimentary cheque pass.
3.	Extension of Validity of Privilege pass	Presently the validity of Privilege pass is two months	It is proposed to extend the validity of Privilege pass to five months at par with Railway staff. (Five months)
4.	Rest Room facilities	Sahayaks are provided with waiting halls, Latrines, Canteens etc., provided at stations for General/Sleeper class passengers'; some station have Sahayak Rest Rooms	It is proposed that Sahayak rest room be provided with TV, RO Water, Barrack beds. Besides, Sahayak rest room be progressively provided at all stations having a strength of 50 and more sahayaks.
5.	Equipment etc	Free use of Railway's light trolleys/hand barrows for carriage of passenger luggage.	Pathways for trolley be constructed to facilitate smooth movement. These pathways may be provided at all major stations.
6.	Educational Facilities	Free educational facilities to the wards of Sahayaks within the schools run by Railways and Railwaymen's organisation/Mahilla Samiti	The ward of Sahayaks may be permitted educational facilities in schools run by Railwaymen's organisation/Mahila Samiti at any station in the Division where they are working.

Submitted for kind approval of Hon'ble MR. Thereafter concerned directorates will be asked to issue necessary orders.

14/12/19
EDPM

AM/T&C

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MR

Pl. process on the relevant policy files with justification.

15.12.19

EDPM 18/12/19

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19/12/19

2. The Railways' primary objective while creating the class of licensed porters was to ensure that luggage transportation facilities are available to all train passengers at all times and at reasonable rates. To achieve this objective, the Railways decided to provide coolie (now Sahayak) services at various stations of Indian Railways and revise this number periodically in accordance with growing passenger traffic over time.

3. The Sahayaks are licensed railway porters and not an employee of the Indian Railway. He is licensed by the Railways to earn a livelihood by offering his services to railway passengers for transport of their luggage. Sahayaks are required to follow certain rules and regulations, falling which his license can be suspended or cancelled. They are also not governed by the labour laws of the country or any other act.

4. Although the Indian Railways are in noway obliged to provide monetary or other benefits to Sahayaks, they have been offered following facilities purely as a goodwill gesture:-

- Complimentary check pass for self in second/sleeper class from station of work to any station in India and back annually;
- One set of Privilege Ticket Order (PTO) in second/sleeper class for self and spouse from station of work to any station in India and back (granted annually).
- Medical facilities for outdoor treatment of self, spouse and dependent children at Railway hospitals, in case such exist at station.
- Sahayaks children admitted in Railway schools wherever these exist subject to availability of seats in these institutions, run by Railway Mahilla Samiti and Railway Welfare organizations;
- Two sets of summer uniform or one summer, one winter uniform (alternate year);
- Free use of Railway's light trolley and hand barrow for carriage of luggage;
- Free use of waiting halls, latrines, canteens provided at stations and in some cases a coolie rest house; and
- Transfer of licenses to dependents/near relatives

5. The latest position on the above was obtained from the concerned directorates and the same is summarised as under:-

Facility	Detailed and updated position	Concerned department	Acceptance/Rejection by the directorate
School facilities for wards of licensed porters	Education is a State Subject on concurrent List and it is the responsibility of State Governments/Department of Education in the Ministry of Human resources Development to provide schools. However, Railways in the past have provided schools purely as a welfare measure at places with concentration of Railway employees where the educational facilities provided by other agencies were either non-existent or inadequate to meet the requirements of Railway wards. In 1995-96, free educational facilities have been extended to the wards of Licensed Porters in the schools run by Railways and Railwaymen's Organisation/Mahila Samities. (Annexure 'A')	Establishment Directorate E (W) 95SC2-28, Dt. 13.7.1996.	No change proposed by the Establishment directorate. However, the scope of the facility is being widened as proposed in Para 7 below.

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Health benefits	<p>Licensed porters are eligible for free outdoor medical treatment for self, wife and dependent children only at Railway hospitals and health units. However, charges are levied for all laboratory, X-ray examination and other investigations</p> <p>ii) Free medical attendance and treatment facilities as indoor patient (excluding diet) will be available in Railway Hospitals only when the licensed porters (Sahayak) grievous injuries while carrying passengers' luggage. This will be certified by the Station Master/Station Superintendent concerned that the party was hurt while working as a licensed porter in the Railway premises and as also about his identify. A free Railway Pass may be issued to cover his journey to the line doctor/hospital/health unit where necessary. (Annexure 'B')</p> <p>iii. Issue of medical card to Sahayaks with all facilities including Outdoor and Indoor treatment</p>	Health Directorate	<p>i & ii. The Health Dte is of the view that the medical facilities being provided to the Sahayaks and their dependent are adequate at present.</p> <p>iii. Health Dte vide note at (Annexure B/1) intimated that the financial implication to provide Railway Medical facilities to 1,00,000 Licensed Porters and their family members after taking into account Per Capita Charges i.e. Rs.12,924/- p.a (calculated for the financial year 2017-18) will be Rs.1,29,24,00,000/- (1,00,000 X Rs.12,924)</p>
Insurance	<p>The Sahayaks are neither railway employees nor contract labours. At present, therefore, Railways does not have any Insurance Scheme specifically meant for Sahayaks. However, there is no bar for their enrolment under open schemes such as "Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna" (PMSBY) & 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna' (PMJJBY) as circulated vide Railway Board's letter No: 2018/E(LL)/RSBY/1 dated 03.08.2018 (Annexure 'C')</p>	Establishment Directorate No.2018/E(LL)/ESI /2	<p>Not agreed by the Establishment directorate. However, Sahayaks can enrol under open schemes such as "Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna" (PMSBY) & 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna' (PMJJBY)</p>
Rest House facilities.	<p>Sahayaks are provided with waiting halls, Latrines, Canteens etc., provided at stations for General/Sleeper class passengers'. Some stations have Sahayak Rest Rooms. (Annexure 'D')</p>	Commercial Directorate 75/TG-II/1010/42/Mts, Dt.09.12.1988	<p>Scope of the facility is being widened as proposed in para 7 below.</p>
Uniform	<p>Two red shirts are supplied every year as Uniform and one woollen shirt is also given them once in two years in lieu of one red shirt. (Annexure 'E')</p>	Commercial Directorate. 96/TG-II/1010/30/NR, Dt. 25.9.1996. & 96/TG-II/1010/30/NR, Dt. 30.7.1997..	<p>Scope of the facility is being widened as proposed in para 7 below.</p>

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Transfer of badge of licensed porters	Transfer of badge of deceased/medically unfit licensed porter is permitted in favour of son adopted son, daughter/adopted daughter, wife/husband (as the case may be) or near relative that includes brother/brother's son or wife's brother only. (Annexure 'F').	Commercial Directorate 2009/TG-II/1010/59,	Accepted and implemented.
Authority to permit transfer of Sahayaks badge by Station Director.	Station Directors have been delegated the power to decide the authority at station/ divisional level for transferring the badges of Sahayaks to dependents (Annexure 'G')	Commercial Directorate 2018/TG-II/1010/16/NR,	Already implemented.
Revision of portage rates.	Zonal railways have been advised to review the portage charges and revise wherever felt necessary. (Annexure 'H')	Commercial Directorate 2018/TG-II/1010/13/Porter age Rates,	Already implemented.
Modifying the nomenclature of licensed porters (coolies) as Sahayak.	In pursuance to Budget announcement by the then Hon'ble MR, it has been decided that all licensed porters (coolies) in Indian Railways henceforth will be called as a "Sahayak". (Annexure 'J')	Commercial Directorate 2016/TG-II/1010/8/Sahayak	Already implemented.
Appointment of licensed porters to the post of Gangmen	In pursuance to Budget announcement by the then Hon'ble MR, sahayaks were appointed as Gangmen, as a one time measure with an option for reversion. (Annexure 'K')	Establishment Directorate. E(NG)II/2008/RR-3/1, E(NG)II/2008/RR-3/1	Already implemented as a one time measure.

6. Ever since the porters' unions have strengthened and constantly been portraying a sorry picture of the porter community, thus demanding more and more privileges for their Sahayaks. Presently, there are around 20000 licensed porters on Indian Railways. With the introduction of battery operated vehicles, escalators, trolley bags, these porters feel a threat to their livelihood. These porters have raised this issue at various for a and also submitted representations to Hon'ble MR, CRB etc. seeking employment as Group 'D' staff in Railways.

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7. In view of the above, it is proposed to extend the scope of the following facilities to enhance the social security net of this unorganized sector.

S.No.	Item	Existing Benefits	Proposed benefits
1	Uniform	Two red shirts are supplied every year as Uniform and one woollen shirt is also given once in two years in lieu of one red shirt	It is proposed that Three red shirts be given to them and one woollen shirt every year
2.	Extension of Privilege pass facilities	One set of complimentary cheque pass and one set of PTO for self and spouse only.	It is proposed that two sets of Privilege Ticket Order (PTO) for self and spouse in second/sleeper class be given in addition to complimentary cheque pass.
3.	Extension of Validity of complimentary check pass	Presently the validity of complimentary pass is two months	It is proposed to extend the validity of Privilege pass to five months at par with Railway staff.
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Out of 06 items mentioned in above para, items 3 & 5 can be straight-away implemented as these do not involve any financial implications. For other items involving financial implication, PED/Finance may please see.

Submitted for kind approval of Hon'ble MR. Thereafter concerned directorates will be asked to issue necessary orders.

[Signature]
EDPM

AM/T&C as AM/C

PED/Finance

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CRB

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26.02.19
Above 6 items are meant for welfare measure of Posters/Sahayaks & can be agreed to. This will be

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27/2/19

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EDPM

Discussed, S.N-6 will also include schools run by Railway and Railwaymen's Organisation

MRFM Diary
No. 1331/2019
Date 28-2-19

"Mahila Samiti".

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6/3

6/3/19

~~CRB~~

MR

May Kunder of more.

V.K. Yadav
6/3/19.

MRFM Diary
No. ...1321.../2019
Date ~~6-3-19~~

- 8 -
"Machala Samiti"

6/3/19

~~CRB~~

May kindly approve.

~~MR~~

V.K. Yashwanth
6/3/19.

Maya
6/3/19

EDPC

~~MRFM Diary~~
No. 1321/2019
Date 6-3-19