

## **Railways**

Subject: Indian Railway /state of condition

We spent a considerable time in India recently, travelling through the length and breadth of India mostly by Indian Railway in duration of 45 weeks, from 1996-2001 to pursue the social work in about 15 states of India. I am forced to draw attention of my fellow countrymen towards this issue. If there is cleanliness, India can attract lot of International tourists. Local tourist industry and Railway's own employees will benefit from following observations and suggestions.

1. Railways are the largest polluters of Environment in India.
2. They are the largest water polluters in India.(Most Damaging)\*\*
3. They are largest air polluters in India.
4. The Indian railways may be one of the largest contributors to national health expenditure.
5. It is common sight wherever railway line passes, in entire nation people can be seen doing their daily routine early morning or any time of the day for that matter. The reason being, there is already filth left by railway tracks. It does not create a pretty sight from railway compartment to look outside the window to admire the beauty of countryside.
6. Railway yards are dirtiest locations in any city, aesthetically very deplorable and health hazards.
7. Drainage system in and around railway properties is in a mess.
8. The large number of people, each day travelling and number of urinals disproportionately so inadequate for users of railway.
9. In countryside many buildings are abandoned by railways, which are safety risk for neighbors.
10. The railway bogies are not cleaned before every next use; it is hazardous to user's health.
11. Even outside of train body should be clean for the health reasons of users, which is not done many times. Vomiting marks can be seen on each and every bogie and sometimes on seats.

### **Argument:**

\*\* Most appalling is spraying the excretion over the entire nation without any consideration of fellow citizens. When an airplane passes over head it does not spray urine or feces over the population on ground, how and when railway got such an unwritten permission to do it throughout, especially rural India. Any body passing under a railway bridge knows about it very well.

### **Suggestions:**

It only will cost railway about five hundred to thousand rupees extra, to have a fiber glass tank and a system to clean up at major or any intermediate stations with the help of pumps and they already have enough cleaning employees. It can be achieved in following ways. A team has to be assembled from bottom up, not top trickle down order system. Make sure all members of these teams are active believers in problem solving, i.e. positive thinker.

Time allowed should be only two years to clean up the mess and start new system. There should be three phases, one- planning for six month, two- procuring necessary equipment for six month, three- one year to implement the tank under the entire urinal and commodes in all the running bogies. There could be some three to four lakh such bogies. The design of tank should follow the contour of under bogie's shape and should be in cube shape, as far as possible. Tank made of fiber glass, can stand the acidity of urine and stool. This could be financed by levying 1% surcharge for two years on every ticket sold in India and the funneling entire funds only for this Project. There should be a transparency about it. So general public is aware and can cooperate in planning process.

In order to Improve air quality instead of sweeping method, which causes inconvenience to users as they are forced to breath the dust in air responsible for many potential health risks, air vacuuming (suction) system to be used which will require less water and hence less discharge system complications. Good thing they have done by stopping the coal burning Engines, in Indian Railways.

It can very easily be proved that amount of money spend in this system can be very easily be offset by saving in health bills.

In the end there is no need to say, if railway can clean its act all together, countryside has a chance to be cleaner and desirable.

*Please send this message to any body you know in Indian Railways or send this message to fellow Indian activist in India.*

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