

**REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
WORKERS' EDUCATION**



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR

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Speech made by Shri V. K. R. Menon, Chairman, Committee on Workers' Education, at the time of presenting the Committee's Report to Shri P. B. Gajendragadkar, Chairman, National Commission on Labour, on 8.11.1967.

Mr. Chairman

My colleagues and I have great pleasure in presenting to you the report of the Committee on Workers' Education. The report has, for its basis, the original terms of reference which were drawn up by Government as also the broader lines of guidance which you were good enough to indicate in your letter addressed to the members. The report is unanimous.

We have been impressed by the importance of the Workers' Education Scheme in the context of healthy industrial development of our country. The latter can be possible only if strong and responsible trade unions are developed and this is the basic object with which the scheme was launched.

The scheme has operated for about ten years, a relatively short period for one of this magnitude and a wholly new one as well. The foundations have been well laid. Considerable interest has been generated among those for whom it is intended.

At the same time, a few shortcomings have developed and the report is perfectly frank and forthright in pointing them out. The bulk of our recommendations relate to removal of these shortcomings as it is only then that we can expect more active interest and support from the trade unions and managements. The remedial measures proposed by us are, we feel, practical and not difficult to enforce. The need for improvement in quality in several directions has been emphasised. Suggestions have been made to involve other bodies, mainly non-official, to interest themselves in this movement. Some indications have been given as to how the scheme is to develop and expand in the coming years. With these developments, we feel the scheme will be assured of a bright future.

If I may add a personal note, I have learnt a lot regarding workers' education as a result of my association with this Committee, thanks to the guidance and cooperation received from all the members. My own task was both easy and pleasant.

On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I thank you for having found in the midst of your many preoccupations time to receive us for presenting our report personally.

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