Dear Principal,

The Board had introduced the concept of Alternate to Home work from class III of the current academic year (2004-05). The objective of the course was to provide opportunities to the students to use the time available at home for enhancing their emotional rapport with family and to address to certain core issues like admiration for nature, appreciation of aesthetics, eco-sensitivity, communication skills etc., The Board had also prepared guidelines to schools on Alternatives to Home work so that the schools get a formal design of the content, pedagogy and strategy envisaged by the Board. I am pleased to forward to you a complementary copy of the Book. You may obtain more copies for your school from the Book stores either at the Head quarters of the Board or from the Book stores of the Regional offices of the Board.

The concept of alternative to home work calls for adequate planning on the part of the teachers and school to design child-friendly activities that would enhance their love for the environment, family and help them to develop as competent citizens of the country. The skills identified either through activities, role-plays or projects could be made a part of co-scholastic activities also. These skills are not to be evaluated formally but the behavioural changes brought out by the empowerment of these skills could be reflected as positive inputs in the School Achievement Record of the individual learners. The training of teachers will be conducted from April 2005. You may like to avail of the facility and all such training schedules will be put up in the Board’s website. Alternatively if, the Sahodayas do come forward for training, adequate support will be provided by the Board. It may also be necessary to take the parents into confidence in implementing the
activities enlisted so that they understand the spirit of this concept and provide necessary assistance and support to their wards in their learning situations outside the school premises.

Your co-operation in effective implementation of the above scheme is solicited.

Yours faithfully,

(G.BALASUBRAMANIAN)