

অবিষ্কৃত
APR 3 1989
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PARC suggests abolition of four departments

Staff Correspondent

Public Administration Reform Commission (PARC) has recommended abolition of four departments and proposed to merge four other departments to the existing four ministries in order to trim the manpower to bring dynamism through cutting down the size of the government in the public sector.

The departments recommended for abolition are — Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BANBEIS), the Directorate of Supply and Inspection, Textile Department and Department of Dhaka Mosquito Control.

Besides other four departments including the patent design and trade marks, Energy Preservation Centres, Tax Commissioner and Tax Directorate, the Directorate of Film and Publication will be merged with the copy right office under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Directorate of Chief Electricity Inspector, Directorate of Tax Inspection and Bangladesh Film Archives respectively.

Since the pattern of work of these departments are almost similar, the commission recommended to merge them.

The commission in its latest report submitted to the Prime Minister recently, said that they had proposed the measures by reckoning some previous recommendations made by the

Administrative Reorganisation Committee 1996 and Government That Works 1996.

The commission has been empowered to consider the implementable recommendations made by the Public Administration Efficiency Study 1989, Public Administration Sector Study 1993, Towards Better Government in Bangladesh 1993, Government That Works 1996, Administrative Reorganisation Committee 1996. However, it is necessary to reexamine the proposals to make them time befitting in the changing circumstances.

In addition to this, according to the work chart of the commission it will submit the draft report by July next and final report will be submitted to the Prime Minister by December. So it is difficult for the commission to carry out a fresh survey and review on manpower in public sector within such a short time.

Explaining the abolition of BANBEIS with 71 employees the report said that, the education related information could be served by Public Libraries along with Directorate of Primary and Higher

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Education. Presently the procedures for Government contribution to the salary of non-government teachers could be done through computers by any private agency.

About the Supply and Inspection Department having 281 employees, the report said that there was no need of a separate directorate only to register the importers, exporters and arrange the limited distribution of foreign currency through licences when the government has withdrawn the controlling system of foreign currency over the years.

Referring to the government policy of privatisation in the textile sector the report said that it was needless to maintain the textile department which has 492

employees, for issuing permit registration and licences to the textile industries. The report suggested that these tasks could easily be performed by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSIC).

Focusing on the dual administrative system in the Department of Dhaka Mosquito Control by Dhaka City Corporation and Local Government and Rural Development Ministry where the employees neither belong to the corporation nor to the ministry. Dhaka City Corporation Mosquito Control Department now controlled by the city corporation has 391 employees. They were provided facilities according to the structure of the ministry of LGRD. It has been suggested phase-wise abolition of the post through the retirement of the employees.

Meanwhile, PARC has made 18 recommendations aiming at implementation of modern institutional arrangements along with administrative reforms in the public sector.