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Poor result, fund shortage Over 100 colleges face closure

Varsity Correspondent

About 100 intermediate colleges across the country are likely to face closure due to reasons such as poor pass percentage in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination, shortage of fund and failure to meet government conditions.

An official of Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANEIS) while talking to the *Bangladesh Observer*, said a large number of colleges have been set up in the country during the last few years keeping pace with the higher percentage of pass in the SSC examinations.

He said that about 100 of the recently established colleges were not able to fulfil the government's conditions and that is why they do not get any help from the government.

"These colleges were fully dependent on their internal income which was collected from the students of the colleges, he said and added that this year the percentage of pass in the SSC examinations under all the education boards remarkably declined as the Question Bank System was abolished from the current year.

The official said during the Ques-

tion Bank System over 70 percent candidates usually came out successful every year which inspired some entrepreneurs to set up colleges. He said at the time of Question Bank System many colleges have been set up for business purpose.

According to an estimate, only 42.61 percent candidates came out successful in the 1996 SSC examinations held under five education boards. The percentage of pass was 73.20 in 1995 while the percentage was 71.19 in 1994.

A total of 4,64,267 students appeared in the SSC examinations this year under the five education boards. Of the total examinees only 97,811 succeeded.

In 1995, the total number of candidates under four education boards—Dhaka, Comilla, Rajshahi and Jessor—was 7,65,135. Of them 5,60,114 had passed the examinations. 6,89,958 examinees sat for the SSC examinations in 1994 from four education boards. Of them 4,90,099 came out successful.

Statistics of BANEIS is 1995 showed that there are 526 government affiliated intermediate colleges

See Page 12 Col. 2

Over 100 colleges

From Page 1 Col. 7
in the country where 1,78,469 students have been taking their lesson. Of the total H.S.C. level colleges nine are government and 517 are non-government. Alongside there are many degree level colleges in the country where many students have been taking lesson at H.S.C. level.

The BANEIS official said most of those recently established colleges have been set up for political and business purposes.

The founders of some colleges are directly involved in the national politics and they did not fulfil rules and regulations of government.

He said, there are many political leaders in our country who set up college in their localities in the name of public welfare. They named the college after them or their family members for their narrow interest in politics.

Many colleges have been established in the urban area during the time of Question Bank System for commercial purpose which also did not meet the condition of the government and as a result, they are deprived of any government aid, the official said.

He said, for the last few years college business was going on in full swing but the low pass percentage in the S.S.C. examinations this year is likely to hazard the survival of these colleges.