

54

Objective Questions

Sir,

The government has taken a justifiable inflexible stand in sweeping aside the detestable question bank system operating in the SSC examinations from next year despite the demonstrations by student who felt this strategy as a hot potato. Last year's SSC exam results indicated an unprecedented high percentage of success. And we do believe that this year's result to be a carbon copy of last year's results. This system is a hot favourite with the students because under this system the question paper is just like a piece of cake. In nine out of ten cases, the examinees themselves would not quite believe they had done so well. Neither was it luck. And of course, luck is quite out of place for so many and at the same time. A reform in the examination system itself explains it; fifty per cent of marks on a given question paper were obtainable on answers to what may be described as set and known questions, thanks to the Question Bank system introduced in 1992.

Five hundred questions with answers set down in quiz form would fetch an examinee fifty marks out of a hundred. One could simply get them by rote and leave the books to gather dust on the shelf, feeling confident of a magnificent score on the 50-mark part of his/her question paper. The published results will bear the student out. They are studded 'Stars', to put it colourfully. But even for most of the "starred" students, the euphoria would not take long to evaporate. This will happen when they sit for admission tests in colleges about a month or so after the SSC results are published. The introduction of the Question Bank was introduced, we feel, to increase the rate of literacy but at the cost of a student's proficiency, knowledge and merit. We congratulate the Ministry of Education for having taken a bold step to eradicate this abominable Question Bank system.

N.H. Sufi, Dhaka.