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'Critics fail to suggest better edn policy'

TONGI, April 29.—Minister for Local Government and Religious Affairs Mahbubur Rahman today told the critics and opponents of the proposed education policy that they failed to suggest an "alternative" more pragmatic productive and people-oriented reports BSS.

The Minister expressed his doubts if many of the critics of the proposed policy of the Government studied it at all and held out assurance the Government "will be willing" to consider and accept a better one, if suggested for implementation.

The proposed policy of the Government seeks to impart the kind of education which would make the students self-reliant and self-respecting instead of becoming a "burden" on others he said while he was giving annual prizes at Tongi Pilot High School.

Referring to 1,52,000 students appearing in the current HSC examination throughout the country, Mr. Mahbub said that under the present arrangements the technical schools, colleges and universities all together had the total capacity to admit only about 40,000 of them.

He said that at present the intake capacity in technical schools is about 1,700 while those of the colleges are about 30,000 to 34,000. The universities could admit only 4,000 of the successful HSC candidates this year.

The Minister stressed that even if 50 per cent of the students appearing in the current HSC examinations come out successful there would be about 86,000 students who would not be able to get themselves admitted anywhere for higher education. What would happen to them and where would they go. He asked and pointed out that the nation also must consider the problem of those HSC candidates who would not be able to come out successful in the examination.

Minister said most of the students were from poor and middle class families. They need to complete their courses and passout in time. But it has not been possible in the past with the result that many of them lag "far behind" their courses and academic period.

The situation he stressed could not be remedied and

"cured" until and unless a healthy academic atmosphere was ensured in all the institutions and thus students are allowed "to refrain from wasting their valuable times in unacademic and agitational activities."

The Minister said the percentage of successful students in various examinations was not only disgraceful but also "alarming" and referred to the results of the last Degree examinations in this connection to emphasise the megnitude of the problem.

In this context the Minister said that the proposed education policy was devised to make education meaningful. It is also aimed at rationalising integrating and consolidating the existing primary education with Islamia and diniyat he said adding the purpose was to combine education with our language culture and religion. Our proposed policy was appreciative of both moral spiritual and material values of life he observed.

Mr. Mahbubur Rahman stressed the need for improving the present education system inherited from the colonial days of domination and exploitation. Unless we resist the alien cultural indoctrination the minister said the performance of our students and their success in the examinations will not improve and the future will be dark and bleak.

He pointed out that percentage of pass in the Degree level at present varies from 10 to 15 only.

The Minister pointed out, the students under the proposed education policy would have the pre-vocational studies upto class eight after completion of the basic education (Continued on page 12 col. 4)

Critics fail

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course running upto class V. After pre-vocational studies one could chose vocational or general courses for higher studies.

And the third stage of the proposed education policy comprising class IX and X he said would be open for vocational and general studies depending on merit and aptitude. This would help the students avoid frustrations later, he added.

At the first stage comprising class I to V the students would be given basic education which would include Islamiat and dinyat. Institutional arrangements for Islamiat would help poor guardians be free from the burden of private arrangements.

The Minister said, let us not criticise or oppose a policy or a reform of the Government for the sake of mere criticism or opposition. 'Let us change our attitude and approach and be constructive' he urged.

Turning to the politicians, Mr. Mahbubur Rahman said they have a role to play in supporting and helping the implementation of policies or reforms being done by the Government for the welfare of the people. Politics he said should be for people's welfare and not for personal or party interest.

The function coincided with the annual sports competition of the school was presided over by Mr. Hasanuddin Sarkar former Chairman of the Tongi Pourashava.