



President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, addressing the Vice-Chancellors of Universities at the President's Secretariat on Thursday.

Debate in Jatiya Sangsad Plea for reforms in education policy

By A Staff Reporter

The Treasury Bench and the Opposition members in the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday debated the National Education Policy and the 'education for all by the year 2000' pleading for necessary reforms in the present education policy to make it further suitable for an independent country.

The debate, took place at the suggestion of the leader of the Opposition A S M Abdur Rab was participated by 11 members on Thursday. They were: Mr Zainul Abedin (COP), Mr Moslemuddin (COP), Mr Kalimuddin

(COP), Prof Mchammad Yunus (COP), Mr Shafiqul Islam (COP), Mr Nur Alam Ziku (COP), Mr Nurul Islam Moni (Ind), Maj (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed (COP) Maj (Retd) Bazlul Huda (FP), and Dr T I M Fazole Rabbi Chowdhury (JP).

The debate will continue next week.

Participating in the debate, Dr T I M Fazole Rabbi Chowdhury (JP-Gaibandha) praised the education policy pursued by the Jatiya Party Government and pleaded for constitution of a separate Public Service Commission for appointment of teachers at all

levels. Referring to the primary education he said its success mainly depended on the quality of teachers. He also suggested a change in the examination system making it objective instead of subjective.

Dr Rabbi said that the allocation to the education sector had gone up considerably under the present Government and 70 per cent of the salary of the teachers in non-government educational institutions were now provided by the Government. He alleged that previously the upazila chairmen used to appoint-

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Education policy

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ment teachers against money. The system has since been done away with, he said.

Dr Rabbi said that there was no real statistics relating to admission at primary levels and subsequent drop outs. He suggested that only masters degree courses should be taken in the universities.

NUR ALAM ZIKU

Mr Nur Alam Ziku felt that the education policy of the country must be realistic, production and people-oriented.

He said that instead of introducing a production oriented education system in the country, there had been a mushroom growth of traditional educational institutions.

He criticised the Government for allocating inadequate resources to the education sector and felt that there was a need to be selective for imparting higher education to students.

He felt that pending total nationalisation of educational institutions, Government must take steps to ensure a uniform system of education in Government and non-government schools.

Mr Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna-2) suggested that the entire education policy should be overhauled giving emphasis on agricultural medical engineering and industrial education so that none remained unemployed after obtaining degree. The general education should be limited up to class eight and higher education should be given to the talented ones only.

He pleaded for formation of a national council in line with Disaster Prevention Council on education problem.

Mr Moni pleaded for increased allocation, more educational institutions and quality teachers. The opening of general schools should be discouraged and be replaced by vocational institutes.

Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahm-

ed (JP-Bhola) said that people representatives should come forward along with the teachers in combating unfair means in the examinations.

He suggested that more educational institutions should be given affiliation. Maj (ret'd) Bazlul Huda said that the education system of the country had now vitiated with corruption, one is to bribe to get admission and also to get a teacher's job, he said.

Mr Huda said that although the colonialists had left our country their laws still existed. The education system could not be improved with bringing about fundamental changes in the existing laws, he said. He suggested for free education up to class viii, compulsory education up to class five, supply for school uniform up to class five, and opening of more vocational institutes in the country.

Prof Zainul Abedin (COP) said our boys had sacrificed their lives in 1962 for introduction of a realistic education policy.

He said past governments had failed to introduce a realistic education policy and the present Government also did not take any steps toward this end.

Referring to the present Government's declared policy of education for all by 2000, he said it would not be achieved as most of the educational institutions in rural areas were in dilapidated condition. Our educational institutions in the rural areas had little furniture and in some cases problem of teacher shortage was there. At the same time, he alleged that educational institutions set up on private level had been closed down. Then how the target be achieved, he asked.

He said education policy must be changed in the national interest.

Mr Moslemuddin (COP-Rajbari) said the education system now prevailing in the country only increased unemployment problem. The system was not at all suitable for an independent nation, he said.

Mr Moslemuddin said the system was also producing unproductive unemployed youths who finding no alternative engaged themselves in anti-social activities.

He said we need an education policy which would enrich our socio-economic condition.

He also pleaded for nationalisation of educational institutions.

Mr Ataur Rahman (COP-Sirajganj) stressed the need for framing full-fledged education policy which would be consistent with the hopes and aspiration of the people.

Referring to kindergarten schools in urban areas, he said subjects taught in these schools were not in conformity with our culture, history and religious feelings. He urged the Education Minister to look into the matter.

Mr Ataur Rahman said although the Government had spent a huge amount on the nationalisation of a large number of educational institutions, the standard of education had not improved in those institutions. He also questioned the wisdom of nationalisation and said that keeping 85 per cent of the educational institutions in the private sector, such piecemeal measures would not yield the desired results.

Mr Rahman pleaded for incorporating vocational and technical education in schools and colleges so that the students did not have to depend on job alone for their survival. In this connection, he pointed

out that a large number of students remained unemployed after obtaining graduation in general subjects. This state of affairs discouraged poor guardians in the countryside to continue studies of their wards, he added.

Mr Rahman said the goal of education for all by the turn of the century would not be achieved if the economic condition of the peasantry was not improved. The high rate of drop-out at the primary level was due to deplorable economic condition of our peasants, he maintained.