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# Agriculture made compulsory from Class VI to IX

By A Staff Reporter

The government has decided to introduce agriculture as a compulsory subject at school level beginning from class six to class nine from this year as a part of its education reforms programme.

This was announced by Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar at a Press conference on Sunday held at the Ministry of Education.

The Education Minister informed that trade course will also be introduced at secondary level as optional subject from next year.

The Education Minister said the introduction of two new subjects primarily aiming at attaining and promoting self-employment opportunities in the country.

He said agriculture would be introduced in class ten from next year.

Necessary books on the subject have already been printed and will be supplied to the students soon.

There will be five courses on agriculture namely poultry, animal husbandry, pisciculture, cultivation of fruits and forestry.

The Education Minister said from now on there will be six compulsory subjects at the secondary level including this newly introduced agriculture.

Four ministries- education, agriculture, environment and forest and fisheries and livestock are extending their cooperation for successful introduction of agriculture at the secondary level, Barrister Sircar said.

The Education Minister outlined the prime objectives of the introduction of agriculture in the secondary-level curriculum.

He said this will help students to have some knowledge of agri inputs and their uses which will subsequently help to boost food production.

Barrister Sircar stressed the urgent need for diversification of crops in the country and said inclusion of agriculture at the secondary-level will contribute to attain this aim.

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Barrister Sircar said alongside their official jobs, officials of the ministries at district and thana levels will take classes in schools on the new subjects.

He further informed girl students will study home economics but they can also take agriculture as compulsory subject.

Regarding the trade course, the Minister informed that several subjects like electric mechanics, nursing, radio-television repairing, computer and other technical matters will be included in the course and this course is meant for students of class nine and ten.

The trade course will be first introduced in some selected schools in and around 65 existing technical training centres in the country so that proper education both theoretical and practical could be imparted to students, the minister added.

Madrasa education will come under the new courses in future, he informed.

The Education Minister informed that there are about 40 lakh students at secondary level in 316 government and 11,927 non-government schools in the country. He said if the two new courses could be successfully implemented, sufficient employments would be generated in the country for school-educated youths and they will also develop a high dignity of labour among themselves.

The Education Minister also informed that the answer scripts of SSC and HSC examinations of all four education boards would be examined centrally with computer from this year.

An optical mark reader system has been installed at the computer centre where this system would be able to examine three thousand answer scripts in an hour and it will yield correct results through coding and computing.

Education Secretary Ershadul Haq who also present at the press conference informed the newsmen that introduction of coding and computing system will abolish any possibility of relation between the examinee and the examiner.

The Education Secretary further informed that from now on, the results of SSC and HSC examinations of all four boards will be published simultaneously.

Replying to a questioner, the Education Minister said that 2,563 new educational institutions became eligible for government grant in the current fiscal year.