

Primary Education Ordn. promulgated

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The President has promulgated the Primary Education Ordinance, 1981 providing for better organisation of primary education and efficient administration and management of the affairs of primary schools in the country, reports BSS.

Announcing this at a Press conference in Dacca on Sunday at his office, the Prime Minister, Shah Azizur Rahman, reiterated his appeal to the primary teachers to resume their duties by February 18 since the Ordinance had fulfilled all their demands.

Information Minister Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury was also present at the Press conference.

Shah Aziz, who is also in charge of the Education Ministry, said that the Ordinance which was promulgated on Saturday had been made in the light of the recommendations of an 11-member committee in which the President, General Secretary and another member of the Primary Teachers' Association were the signatories.

The Prime Minister said that under the Ordinance the primary teachers would continue to enjoy the status of government servant and their service condition would not be varied to their disadvantage.

Shah Aziz made it clear that according to the Ordinance the government would take all responsibilities for the payment of salaries, pensions and gratuity to the primary teachers.

Explaining the salient features of the Ordinance he said, it would create a local education authority in every subdivision for the proper management and functioning of the primary schools.

This authority in each subdivision, the Prime Minister pointed out, would comprise one gram prodhan from each thana to be elected by the gram prodhans of the thana, the Chairman of each Thana Development Council in the subdivision and one teacher of a government primary school from each thana.

The Subdivisional Officer will be the Ex-officio Chairman of the authority while the Subdivisional Education Officer will work as its Ex-officio Member Secretary.

Shah Aziz said that the Vice-Chairman of the authority would be elected by majority votes. The Chairman of the authority would be its chief executive.

He pointed out that the recruitment rule for the primary teachers would be framed by the government and not by the authority. The Prime Minister said, there shall be an executive committee, which will include the representatives of the teachers and there shall be a managing committee for each primary school which will include a head teacher as well as another teacher.

Referring to the positions of the cities of Dacca, Khulna, Chittagong and Rajshahi, Shah Aziz said that separate local education authority might be

established by the government for these places.

He however, said, that the primary teachers of these places would be treated as government servants as at present.

Replying to a question the Prime Minister said that arrangement would be made through the help of the guardians to open the primary schools if the teachers did not resume their duty by February 18.

He said no action would be taken against the primary teachers who would join their

Lions clubs urged to expand role in rural areas

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman inaugurated a free Sunday Dental, Dermatology and Family Planning Centre at Mirpur in Dacca on Sunday under the auspices of the Lions Club of Dacca Green, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion he called upon the Lions Clubs to expand their activities in the rural areas to the service of the people living there.

Lauding the activities of the Lions Clubs to the service of humanity, the Prime Minister asked them to channelise their efforts in eliminating the curse of illiteracy from the society and motivating the rural people about the need of family planning.

Shah Aziz said that the population explosion had been identified as the biggest problem of the nation and therefore, the present rate of population growth must be checked.

He said, all the development efforts would be meaningless if we failed to arrest the population explosion.

The Prime Minister said that the Government had undertaken a massive programme to remove illiteracy from the country by 1985. Two lakh people had already been imparted functional education while another two crore had been enrolled for the same, he pointed out.

Explaining functional education Shah Aziz said it would enable one to read newspapers, write letters and keep the accounts of the family.

Referring to the canal digging programme, he said that it had already yielded a positive result in boosting agricultural production.

He said that President Ziaur Rahman's call for peaceful revolution had created a sense of awakening among the masses and that was why the people had come forward to participate in the canal digging and mass literacy programme on voluntary basis.

The Prime Minister described as "satisfactory" the present food position in the country. "We have piled up a stock of 13 lakh tons of foodgrains at present, and more godowns are being built for storage", he said.

duty within the given time.

Shah Aziz told a questioner that it seemed to him that the leaders of the Primary Teachers Association wanted the downfall of the government and not the realisation of the demands of the primary teachers. There were some active members of political parties in the Primary Teachers Association, he pointed out.

The Prime Minister said that a new Directorate had already been opened to control the primary education in the country. He said, the government had introduced a new recruitment policy to appoint primary teachers under which the female teachers would be appointed from now on.

Shah Aziz said that out of the appointment of 10 thousand primary teachers, seven and a half thousand would be taken from among the female candidates.

Replying to another question the Prime Minister said that the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University was a routine matter. He said the Chancellor could appoint anybody as pro-V.C. in accordance to a provision.