

Resume work immediately, PM asks pry teachers

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Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on Sunday night urged the striking primary school teachers to resume their work without any further loss of time in the interest of education of eight million children of the country, reports BSS.

In a statement, the Prime Minister said the government was constrained to say that the strike of the primary school teachers had been causing suffering to eight million children at the very beginning of the academic year. The strike was damaging the primary education as a whole at a time when the government was making all-out effort to universalise primary education, he added.

In his lengthy statement Shah Azizur Rahman referred to the formation of a committee headed by the State Minister for Education to examine the problems and service con-

ditions of the government primary school teachers and spell out the recommendations of the committee to dispel any misgiving lurking in the minds of the primary school teachers.

The committee's recommendations had endeavoured to protect their every legitimate rights, he said and hoped that the teachers as responsible and sensible to employees and citizens would realise the good intention of the government and in the interest of the education of the children they would go back to their work without any further loss of time.

The Prime Minister said the Government has observed with regret that the primary teachers have been on strike for sometime to realise certain demands relating to their service condition and administration of primary education. In this connection, he reiterated the government's attachment of high priority to the primary

education and pointed out that it had planned for implementation of the biggest ever development programme in the current Second Five Year Plan at an estimated Taka 3.87 crore which accounted for more than 40 per cent of the total allocation for the education sector during the plan period.

The Prime Minister said "in the context of the above and the reported grievances of the teachers the Government appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Mr Abdul Baten, State Minister for Education to examine the problems and service conditions of the government primary school teachers and the administrative system of primary education and make the recommendations for proper functioning of the schools and for ensuring service security of the teachers.

Other members of the committee were four members of

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the Parliament, three representatives of the Government Primary School Teachers' Association and three senior officials of the Ministry of Education.

The committee has recommended that for proper and effective management the present system of administration of primary education should be decentralised and for that purpose the responsibility of administration, management and supervision of the government primary schools should be handed over to local education authorities to be established through an act of the Parliament for each sub-division or such geographical areas as may be specified by the government. The composition of the local education authorities will include representatives of elective bodies as well as primary teachers.

While the functions of the proposed local education authorities will, among other, include recruitment, appointment, posting, transfer and promotion of teachers. The responsibility of the government will be to formulate and enforce rules and regulations prescribing service conditions of the teachers including disciplinary action of the teachers. Formulation and enforcement of recruitment rule for the teachers will also lie with the government.

The other important responsibility of the government will be determination and provision of funds needed for the salary, pension, gratuity, allowances and other benefits as those enjoyed by comparable government servants to the teachers under the local education authorities. The government will ensure fund for the salary and other benefits of the primary school teachers as determined by the government.

The committee had recommended that the primary school teachers under the local education authority will enjoy such service security as at present and their service conditions will not be varied or altered to their disadvantage.

The recommendations of the above committee are under the active consideration of the government. It will be clear from the above that the committee's recommendations have endeavoured to protect every legitimate right of the government primary school teachers.