

159

80 pc of striking teachers to join duties

Govt determined to hold SSC exams

By A Staff Reporter

The government is determined to hold the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations, scheduled to begin from tomorrow (Monday) across the country and all arrangements are complete for holding the examinations.

This was stated by Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar at a crowded press conference on Saturday afternoon at the Education Ministry.

The Education Minister reiterated the call to the non-government school, college and madrasa teachers and employees who are still on strike to withdraw the strike, to join

their duties and help smooth holding of the forthcoming SSC examinations.

This year a total 6,92,741 candidates under four education boards will sit for the examinations in 644 centres across the country.

Barrister Sircar reminded the teachers community saying that teaching is not only a profession, it is a mission too, he said they should not keep hostage our innocent children who is going to sit for the first public examination in their life which is crucial for their future life.

Dispelling any doubt about smooth conduct of the examination, Barrister Sircar said eighty per cent of the striking teachers have agreed to join fol-

lowing some of their demands were met by the government.

The Minister said the government has already agreed to introduction of time-scale and enhancement of medical allowance equal to government teachers and employees for non-government teachers to be effective from July this year.

This will involve an additional expenditure of about Taka 1.25 crore for the state, he added.

The existing teachers benefit would be termed from now on as the government's contribution towards salary and other allowances of the non-government teachers as it was demanded by them, the Minister informed.

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Govt determined

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Moreover, the government had decided to constitute a teachers' welfare trust, he said.

Referring to the steps taken by the government for the development of non-government educational institutions and their teachers, the Minister said the government had been giving grants as salary and allowance since July, 1992 to more than 2.5 lakh teachers-employees of non-government educational institutions which were 70 per cent of the revised pay scale.

He said as a result of this step, the overall salary-allowance got a 30 per cent increase resulting in annual increase of expenditure of the government of Taka 285 crore.

The education Minister further informed that the government has decided to form a highpowered committee to look into various demands put forth by the non-government teachers.

The Education Minister told a questioner that the annual involvement for nationalisation of services of 2.25 lakh teachers and 70,000 employees of non-government educational institutions would be between Taka 1200 crore to Taka 1500 crore.

Barrister Sircar also informed that the government is actively thinking to enact laws to ensure job security for the non-government teachers.

He said as a part of the present democratic government's commitment, the government will also introduce gratuity benefits to retiring non-government teachers in near future for ensuring welfare in their old age.

Barrister Sircar reiterated that the government will hold SSC examinations with the participation of teachers and hoped that the remaining teachers who are still on strike will call off their workstoppage considering the greater interest of the nation.

He further said the demand for nationalisation of service of non-government teachers requires huge amount of money which the present economic situation does not permit but the future is always open for accomplishing such gigantic task.

Replying to a questioner relating to police action on striking teachers on Saturday in front of the DC's office in the city, the Education Minister said that an enquiry will be made into the incident to ascertain whether the police action was justified to maintain law and order situation or not.

In reply to another question, Barrister Sircar said we

have not stopped the nationalisation process and we shall continue within our capacity and called for resolving the crisis through discussion.

Barrister Sircar said under the infrastructural development plan of the present government, eleven non-government educational institutions including 8 high schools, one girls school, one madrasa and one college in each thana of the country had been included.

He further informed that the government has launched a phasewise stipend programme for over 20 lakh girl students from class six to class ten in all secondary schools of the rural areas of the country.

State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan and Education Secretary Ershadul Haq also addressed the press conference.

He said the government will be compelled to take legal actions against those teachers who would fail to perform their duties in the SSC examinations.