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## Cabinet body to examine teachers' demand

A three-member cabinet committee has been formed to study the non-government teachers' demand for fixation of their basic salary in line with the national pay scale, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said yesterday, reports UNB.

Making a statement in Parliament yesterday on the situation arising out of indefinite strike by teachers, Sircar said he had talks with the leaders of different associations of school and college teachers, and the government had agreed in principle to form a trust fund for teachers.

The Education Minister said according to a cabinet decision, the Finance Minister, the Home Minister and he himself were given the responsibility to study the teachers' main demand for nationalising their services and placing them in the national pay scale.

He said steps will also be taken so that the non-government teachers get government allowances by 15th of every month.

Pointing out to the need for budgetary allocation for meeting the teachers' demand, the Education Minister said it would require Tk 122 crore to 125 crore. New tax will have to be imposed on people, he added, if teachers' demands are to be accepted right now.

Sircar urged teachers, students, guardians and parliament members to extend their cooperation for holding the Degree examination smoothly.

"None should take any steps that might lead to loss of one academic year of the examinees."

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## Cabinet body

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and jeopardise their future", the Education Minister said.

He also informed the House of the measures taken by the government for holding Degree examination scheduled from today (Monday) under the Dhaka University and from February 12 under the Chittagong University.

Deputy leader of the House Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the genuine demands of teachers will be considered but asked them not to make the examinees hostage for realising their demand.

Prof. Chowdhury was speaking on the indefinite strike of non-government school and college teachers, which threatened the Degree examination scheduled from today.