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Examinees won't be made hostage: Sircar

Tk 3000 cr needed to meet striking teachers' demand

The government will require an additional amount of Tk 3000 crore to meet the striking non-government school and college teachers' demand for a 30 per cent raise in their salary.

Disclosing this Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar told UNB Thursday the present government had already given 20 per cent raise of their salary entailing an expenditure of Tk 1000 crore.

The government used to pay 50 per cent of their salary from its own resources before the Khaleda administration took over. This government has increased the pay of the non-government school and college teachers from 50 to 70 per cent.

Now they are demanding a pay-hike of another 30 per cent which will weigh on the government's scarce resources with a crushing burden, the education minister stated.

He further pointed out that a group of teachers was insisting on complete nationalisation of their pay and benefits. To implement the demand for nationalisation of the teachers' pay and benefits, the government will require an additional Tk 6000 crore or perhaps more.

Asked how the government will reconcile the teachers demands with its scant resources, the minister said efforts were on to hammer out a consensus on the demands of the teachers on strike in a bid to end the crisis.

Asked about the arrangements made by the government

to hold the SSC examination commencing next week, the minister noted with satisfaction that the striking teachers would not lag behind in doing their invigilation duty for the ensuing examinations.

They have made it absolutely clear to the government that they would not make SSC examinees hostage for their financial benefits.

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar claimed classes in 60 per cent of the non-government colleges are being held as usual. Teachers in those colleges are taking classes without any disturbances from any quarters.

Some 1,75,000 teachers of non-government schools and colleges have been on strike since April 18 to press for realisation of their demands for rise in their pay and other ancillary benefits.