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Govt college teachers asked to resume duty by Nov 24

By A Staff Reporter

The Government has directed all employees serving in Government colleges to resume their duties by November 24.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on Tuesday said appropriate disciplinary action as per provisions of law would be taken against those who would fail to resume by that date.

PRESS NOTE

The Government notes with great regret that a section of Government college teachers has been abstaining themselves from performing their duties since 19 November 1979. In some cases, other teachers and government servants of other categories serving in those ins-

Contd. on page 12 Col. 4

Contd. from page 1

titutions are being physically prevented from attending to and performing their duties. In the colleges under the jurisdiction of the Rajshahi and Chittagong Universities where B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. examinations are in progress, efforts have been made to disrupt the examinations.

These illegal actions on the part of section of government college teachers have been committed in response to a call from an organisation called Bangladesh College Teachers Association for the fulfilment of certain demands in respect of pay scales. It may be recalled that the New National Scales of pay for teachers of all categories were so prescribed as to give due recognition to their important role in national development. Even after the initial fixation, further reviews were made. Appellate Committee considered their cases sympathetically and improvements were made consistent with the basic service structure and principles governing national pay policy.

The improvements brought about may be seen from the table below:

(Post: Scale as on 30-6-73; Scale after 1-7-73; New Scales after 1-7-77):

Lecturer — 450-1000 — 475-1275 — a) 900-1610 (SG after 5 years) b) 750-1470.

Assistant Professor — 500-1250 — 475-1275 — a) 1400-2225 (SG 40% after 5 years) b) 1150-1800

Associate Professor; Vice-Principals of Degree Colleges; Principal of Intermediate Colleges — 750-1500 — 750-1500 — 1850-2375.

Principal of Degree Colleges — 750-1500 — 750-1500 — 2100-2600.

Professor, Principal and Vice-Principal of College (with Honours and Post-Graduate) — 875-1700 — 875-1700 — a) 2350-2750 (SG 50%) b) 2100-2600.

Even after all these enhancements, on further representation from the teachers, Appeal Committee again considered their cases on 15th November 1979 and agreed in principle on certain additional benefits.

It should be further mentioned that recently Government has decided to constitute 14 Cadres of Civil Services of which Bangladesh Civil Service (Education) will be one. This will also open up prospects of upward mobility on merit of Government College teachers as in the case of other cadre services. This will be in addition to promotion prospects within the cadre in which the proportion of Assistant Professors to Lecturers is nearly one to two, and the same in case of Associate Professors to Assistant Professors is almost two to five. Provision have been made for them for further upward mobility rising to the scale of Tk

2350-2750 as Professors and certain categories of Principals and Vice-Principals. Such posts, including deputation posts open to them number nearly one hundred.

All these are within the knowledge of the representatives of the Government College teachers. Despite this, some of them have gone on strike in contravention of the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules and the provisions of the Government Servants (Special Provisions) Ordinance 1979. These illegal activities organised by the Government College Teachers' Association also contravenes the conditions of recognition of Associations of employees of the Government. This Association which assumed the leadership of the striking section of the teachers has also called upon the teachers to refrain from taking part in the conduct of degree final examinations of the Chittagong and Rajshahi Universities which are currently being held.

It has also been reported that certain elements among this section of teachers are obstructing others from doing their duties by various means including use of physical force, and preventing the law abiding teachers from conducting the University examinations. Incidentally, these examinations were due to be normally held in 1978 and are already delayed by nearly a year and a half. Further delay of the same can only cause great hardship including uncertainty of career prospects in respect of thousands of candidates and suffering to their families. Such actions are also likely to vitiate overall academic atmosphere in the country at a time when all the educational institutions are also in the process of conducting their annual examinations and tests for different final examinations conducted by Secondary and Higher Secondary Board and Universities.

Government wishes to reiterate that everything possible has been done to do justice to the cause of the Government college teachers. Various government functionaries met with the representatives of the college teachers time and again, explained what has been done for them and tried to dissuade them from taking any illegal action. Regrettably all these did not have any effect on a section of them.

All government employees serving in the government colleges who may be abstaining from their duties, or interfering with the performance of duties by others are advised in their own interest to desist from such actions forthwith. All such employees are directed to resume their duties by November 24, 1979 failing which government will be compelled to take appropriate disciplinary action as per provisions of law.