

Come out with valuable suggestions : Sattar

Govt firm to recast education system

By A Staff Reporter

Vice-President Justice Abdus Sattar inaugurated the two-day central workshop on draft education policy on Thursday morning reiterating the determination of the Government to introduce in the country an education system capable of meeting the needs of time.

Organised by the National Education Advisory Council (NEAC) the workshop held at the Parliament House was presided over by the newly-appointed State Minister for Education, Mr. Abdul Baten.

After a brief opening session the workshop went into a full-fledged debate on the draft interim education policy prepared by the NEAC. A large number of delegates including Kazi Zafar Ahmed, former Education Minister and General Secretary of the United People's Party, educationists, student leaders and Government officials participated in the discussions on the first day's session.

Vice-President Justice Sattar told the participants at the workshop to come out with their valuable suggestions for framing an education policy for the country reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the society. He said that the Government aimed at achieving all-round development of the country

speedily. The education had a vital role to play in this regard.

The Vice-President said rural uplift was the basic objective of national development programme. He said that the education system should be recast keeping in view of this national goal. He also said that the education policy should be framed in such way that it could be implemented within a definite period of time.

ABDUL BATEN

The State Minister for Education, Mr. Abdul Baten, said that the objective of the workshop was to elicit opinion of people concerned with education on the draft education policy.

The State Minister mentioned that workshops at district and divisional levels were held in this connection and the opinions of the participants at those workshops would also be considered while giving a final shape to the education policy. He hoped that the education policy would fully reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people.

KAZI ZAFAR

Participating in the discussion former Education Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed appreciated

that the National Education Advisory Council had been able to frame the preliminary draft education policy within a short period and hoped that the policy would be finalised within the stipulated period of three months. He stressed on the need for achieving full national consensus on the education policy.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said that for historical reasons he could not make his full contribution while the draft was being given a final shape. He expressed his confidence that the NEAC would be able to frame a progressive production-oriented education policy that would meet the requirements of the time.

The former Education Minister

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said that the colonial education system introduced by the Britishers to serve their colonial interests was still extant.

He said that the workshops held at regional levels had generated tremendous interests among the people concerned with education. He observed that if the education policy was framed on the basis of national consensus its acceptability and implementation would be easy.

He referred to some of the suggestions made in the draft policy and said these were made in keeping with the requirements and realities obtaining in the society. He said that the realities of social disparity should be taken into consideration and attempts should be made to remove the inequalities.

Those who participated in discussion on Thursday included Mr. Nurul Huq, Director Rural Development Academy, Bogra; Advocate Habibur Rahman of Dinaipur, Mr. A. F. M. Kamaluddin of Janangirnagar University, Dr. Arwarul Karim of Kushtia, Dr. Shamsul Huq, Director, Education Research Institute, Mr. A. K. M. Fazlul Huq, Secretary, Primary School Teachers Association, Miss Monowara Monu, a Member of the Union Parishad, Mr. Mohiuddin Alamgir, Deputy Commissioner, Jessore, Mr. Shahidul Alam, Deputy Commissioner, Bogra, Mrs. Gulshan Ara, Principal, Jessore Women's College, Kazi Akram Hossain, President Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Mr. Atiqur Rahman Salu, a leader of the United Peoples Party, Mr. Akhtar Hossain, Organising Secretary, Bangla Chhatra Union, Prof. M. B. Karim of Dacca University, Mr. Qamrul Hasan, a member of Education Advisory Council and Mr. Abdul Khaleque, Secretary Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.