

Steps to minimise delay in uplift works taken

National service for mass education soon

CHITTAGONG, Aug 16: A national service for mass education would be introduced in the country so that all matriculations and up-wards are obligated to participate in the programme for certain period of time, resorts ESS.

This decision was taken at a meeting of National Economic Council (NEC) at 'Hizbul Bahr' here with President Ziaur Rahman in the chair.

The NEC decided that appropriate laws would be enacted in this regard and a standing committee would be constituted by the Ministry of Education to work-out details. The NEC, in a detailed discussions took the decision that mass mobilisation for literacy drive must be intensified further by the Ministry of Education and everybody must participate and get involved fully.

According to a NEC decision

a cell would be created in the Prime Minister's Secretariat to monitor the implementation of all these programmes aimed at driving out illiteracy from the country.

According to a NEC decision the Radio and Television must devote atleast half hour each day for publicising mass education programme. A complete cycle for about five months should be organised by Radio and Television to complete the course it decided.

The Village Defence Party (VDP) should also participate in a massive way in the implementation of programme and all industrial units must organise mass education programme and after one year there should be no uneducated employees in any industrial unit.

The teachers and students of all educational institution would be required to participate in the national development work for certain period of time and the Ministry of Education would chalk out programmes in this respect in consultations with the President Secretariat.

According to another NEC decision more frequent inter-ministerial coordination meeting to be held to further gear up the literacy drive, to save the country from the curse of illiteracy.

DELAY IN UPLIFT WORKS

The National Economic Council (NEC) also decided that maximum efforts must be taken

by all concerned to minimise delays in the selection preparation and approval and implementation of all development projects in the country.

The meeting which was held at 'Hizbul Bahr' for a couple of hours also took some important decisions in order to streamline the approval of development projects.

The NEC decided that the upper limit of the sanctioning authority of the administrative ministries would be raised from the present level of Taka 50 lakh to Taka 150 lakh.

This limit the meeting decided, would be further raised to Taka two lakh if a project does not require any foreign financing. The sanctioning limit of the Ministry of Planning was also raised from existing limit of Taka 200 lakh to Taka 300 lakh. All projects involving more than taka 300 lakh would be placed before the Executive Committee of NEC.

UNAPPROVED PROJECTS

The NEC after through discussion on the development projects decided that the Ministry of Planning would approve or reject all the 750 unapproved projects in the Annual Development Plan of 1980-81 by December 31, this year.

It also approved the decision that the literacy service should be developed within the country on a priority basis and any Ministry willing to un-

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undertake construction work by itself would be able to do so without referring to the Ministry of Works.

At the time of preparation of a project, the NEC decided, detailed time schedule including stages of approval should be clearly spelled-out so that the responsibility for delay can be appropriately located.

BIG CARS TO GO

The meeting also took decision that all big cars owned by Government and agencies should be disposed off or returned to the Establishment Division within a period of one month and they must use only smaller cars.

According to the NEC decision the Ministry of Planning had been asked to prepare a time schedule for rejecting or accepting a project submitted to the Commission.

The Prime Minister has also been given the responsibility to examine the issue of relationship between the Ministries and Corporations to ensure maximum efficiency of the whole system. The Prime Minister according to NEC would be assisted by a Council Committee of which he himself is chair man. The existing industrial enterprises should henceforth undertake balancing modernisation and replacement by generating their own income the meeting decided.