

Jail terms for unfair means in examinations

The Council of Ministers at a meeting on Monday decided to amend the Public Examination (Offences) Act-1980 to raise the degree of punishment with a view to curbing all kinds of unfair means in the examinations besides stopping other dishonest trends with regard to examinations, reports BSS.

Presided over by the Acting President, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, ministers, ministers of state, Principal Finance Secretary, Cabinet Secretary and Secretaries of concerned ministries and division, an official handout said.

Under the amendment, there will be provisions to award punishment of minimum two years and maximum

five years of imprisonment to a fake examinee.

The amendment will further make the provisions for sentencing minimum four years and maximum 10 years of jail term for offences like leakage of question paper while minimum three years to maximum 10 years of imprisonment for the crime like issuance of false mark-sheet, certificate, diploma or degree.

Under the proposed amendment provisions will be there to award minimum three years and maximum 10 years of imprisonment for the offences like any change in the answer paper or illegal addition to it (answer paper).

Provisions will be there to award minimum two years and maximum

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five years of imprisonment to those who would supply copy in the examinations while provision will be made to award one year imprisonment to those who will create disturbances in the examination centres.

There will be provisions for imposing fine on the offenders on all the cases.

An examinee, if found guilty of copying, will be debarred from participating in the examination for three years.

The Council of Ministers also decided to import one lakh metric tons of uncrushed salt immediately. This quantity of salt will be imported by the real and established owners of salt mills to be selected by the BSCIC in consultation with the Salt Mills Owners' Association.

As per the commitment of the Salt Mills Owners' Association the importers will open letter of credit within seven days of the announcement of the government decision and market the refined salt within forty days of the opening of the letter of credit.

The Salt Mills Association in consultation with the BSCIC will decide

at what price the mill owners will sell the imported uncrushed salt in unadulterated form after refinement to the wholesalers. They will inform the TCB of the price fixation with full explanation.

The Ministry of Industry, TCB and the concerned deputy commissioners will have to be informed where the mill owners will keep the imported salt and what will be the march-up of the wholesalers.

The mill owners will give a statement to the concerned deputy commissioners and TCB of the price and quantity of salt sold to the wholesalers. This information will have to be furnished within seven days of the sale.

The TCB has invited tenders for the import of fifty thousands tons of crushed salt and equal quantity of uncrushed salt as per the previous directive of the Commerce Ministry. The process of importing fifty thousands tons of uncrushed salt will be cancelled in view of the decision to allow the Salt Mills Owners' Association to import uncrushed salt. The process of importing fifty thousands tons of crushed salt will continued as an effective step against unreasonable price-hike of this sensitive commodity.