

133

**SSC QUESTION BANK**

The section of students now agitating against the decision of withdrawal of SSC question bank from the next year has utterly misunderstood their cause. The question bank system, which was ill-conceived, has been found not the least useful in sharpening the intellectual faculty of the young learners, the sole purpose of education. As it simplified education by enabling SSC examinees to do remarkably well by memorising answers of several hundred objective-type questions, some students may hold the wrong idea that it was in their interest. Actually, it is not. If an education system does not fully prepare students for successfully taking up the challenges of the practical life, it is utterly useless and should be replaced by a better system without spoiling much time. That's what the authorities have done in the interest of students as well as the nation.

Evidently, the persons responsible for the introduction of the question bank system had not carefully evaluated the possible effect of their contemplated system before recommending it. Had they studied it thoroughly prior to taking the decision to introduce it, the nation would not have paid a bitter cost in terms of relaxed academic standard at the SSC level for several years. Those who are responsible for public education are supposed to be highly educated in the real sense. If they commit costly blunders, like introducing the question bank system, what is the purpose of education itself? If such a trend persists, what will happen to this nation? The government should find out who was or were instrumental for introducing the misconceived system that has done so much harm to several batches of SSC examinees. Action should be taken against those responsible for it. The concerned SSC examinees would have studied much more than they did had this simplified system not been in place. Consequently, they would have been better prepared for future advances at higher academic levels or practical life just on acquiring SSC. Who would compensate them for their losses?

The agitating students should be counselled against preferring a suicidal course by their teachers, guardians and leaders of different spectra of the society. It is an issue that calls for concerted action by all concerned. The agitating students have already tried to impose their will on the authorities by taking to streets and damaging vehicles and other public property in a demonstration of anger. If their movement continues unabated, the government will have two options: either to give in without caring for the cost that the nation will have to pay for year in and year out or take harsh measures to stop the movement, a step that may have unforeseen consequences. The latter may create complications for the government, but it would be good for the country. Again, we are faced with a situation in handling which all of us should display a unity of purpose and unity of resolve. Should we withhold our national prospect for advancement and growth by not collectively showing such a resolve in dealing with this particular issue?