

President Ershad addressing the grand conference of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association at Paksey on Monday.

Teachers' welfare

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the government the literacy rate was still between twenty and thirty per cent. He sought advice from the teachers for raising the literacy rate so that the nation would become proud and said we wanted to prove to the world that we are a poor nation but not illiterate.

Referring to the indiscipline in the educational arena, President Ershad said for this primary schools were not responsible. But he said, being the friend, philosopher and guide of the rural people, primary teachers, could play an important role in imbibing them against indiscipline in educational arena.

He said the people of the country neither wanted indiscipline in educational institutions nor they wanted copying. They did not want to see their children engaged in politics, he said adding: they want to educate their children, build them as worthy citizens and establish them in the society.

The President mentioned about the recurrence of floods in the country and said, "we do not want floods anymore and we want to live", he said at the same time Bangladesh wanted its just share of water of the

river Ganges and called upon the countries of the region to give us the share of our water as well as make efforts for the solution of the problem of floods.

He said the people of Bangladesh do not want any mercy from anybody other than the Almighty Allah, they wanted to stand on their own feet through hard work, he said adding: our objective was to seek assistance to stand on our own feet as soon as possible. We do not want to remain dependent on others for a long, he said.

Allocation of primary education to be raised

The President said decision had been taken to increase the allocation of primary education out of the budget for education sector from the existing 40 per cent to more than 50 per cent. This step had been taken to provide education to grassroots level to achieve the objective of education for all by 2000, he said.

The President of BPTA Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, categorically said the developments taking place in education and other sectors during the period of President Ershad had no parallel in the history of this country. He said he have now got a strong leader who could solve our problems including those of the floods and waters.