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The Bangladesh Times

Raise in private primary teachers' grant likely

The government expressed the hope on Wednesday that the non-government primary teachers would withdraw their strike and resume duties as the government was contemplating increasing its ratio of contribution for the improvement of their (teachers) financial condition, reports BSS.

A press release issued by the government said, attention of the government has been drawn to the sit-in demonstration and hunger strike programme of some non-government primary teachers in Dhaka and gave a detailed account of the

steps taken by the government in this regard.

Following is the text of the press release: "the government introduced the provision of paying a monthly grant of Taka 500 each to the teachers of registered non-government schools in 1991. The number of non-government schools increased heavily as a result of which registration of non-government schools was stopped. The government again started giving registration to the non-government schools recently in view of the expansion of compulsory Primary Education throughout the country.

The teachers of these newly registered schools are also being given a grant of Taka 500 each. An additional amount has also been allocated in the budget to ensure financial grant to the teachers of the newly registered schools.

Since there is no possibility of their transfer to other places these non-government teachers are teaching in schools remaining in their homes and the authorities of the respective schools run the institutions and arrange salary for the

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teachers. The government introduced the system of providing Taka 500 as grant for each teachers considering the insolvency of the local people.

It may be mentioned that before 1991 no assistance was rendered by the government for the development of primary schools. A Taka 427 crore project was undertaken in 1992-93 for the development of 8830 registered primary schools.

Work has already started under this project for reconstruction of 7482 schools and renovation of another 698 and this process is being continued.

Under this programme, provisions have been made for making three pucca rooms to accommodate 50 students besides two sanitary latrins, one tubewell and necessary benches, chairs, tables and black boards. This is for the first time such development of the non-government primary schools is being done entirely from the government's own resources.

Besides giving the teachers a monthly grant of Taka 500 each, they are being given a one-year C-in-Ed training in

phases at the government primary teachers training institute. A total of 2292 teachers of the non-government primary schools have so far been given training and in phases all teachers of the registered non-government primary schools will be given training under the programme.

In addition, the teachers of non-government primary schools are being given in-service training similar to that of the teachers of government primary schools.

The press release said that a delegation of non-government primary schools met the Prime Minister some time back and submitted their charter of demands to her when they were told that their genuine demands would be sympathetically looked into.

It said that because of incorporation of the teachers of the newly registered non-government primary schools, the monthly grant for the teachers could not be enhanced from present rate of Taka 500.

The government is considering enhancement of the monthly grant for the teachers of non-government primary schools. A final decision would be taken soon.