

MORE NON-GOVT INSTTS FOR MPO Nahid joins MPs for fund release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday joined the ruling party lawmakers' demand for immediate release of funds for enlisting more non-government educational institutions for the monthly pay order (MPO) scheme.

"We will start enlisting as soon as the finance ministry releases the fund," he replied to a question in parliament, hoping that Finance Minister AMA Muhith would take the matter into consideration.

Once enlisted, non-government institutions will enjoy salary and other benefits from the government's exchequer.

During a question-answer session, Nahid faced a volley of questions from some lawmakers wanting specific answers on whether the institutions will be enlisted within the government's remaining time in office.

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said despite many developments in the education sector, this issue remained as a "fault of the present government."

He criticised Nahid and came down hard on Finance Minister AMA Muhith for not releasing the fund.

"It is the demand of every lawmaker. I do not understand why he (Muhith) does not release the fund. There should not be any budget deficiency at the fag end of this government."

Many schoolteachers are leading inhuman lives for not getting the MPO, he said, adding that the required amount, even if it was Tk 1,000 crore, was not a big deal. He

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demanded releasing the fund by this month and the prime minister's intervention.

Selim said Nahid took names of three educational institutions from each lawmaker for inclusion in the MPO list, and a proposal has already been approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec).

Nahid replied that they wanted to bring new and legally operated educational institutions under the MPO scheme but the finance came from the finance ministry.

The number of schools, madrasas, colleges and

technical institutions not getting MPO facilities is 11,624, informed Nahid.