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Teachers still wait for separate pay scale

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THE Awami League-led government has done little in its three years in office to fulfil its election pledge of putting in place a separate salary structure for teachers.

The education ministry has, however, worked out an education policy, updated the curriculum, distributed free textbooks to both primary and secondary students and increased the number of teachers in government primary schools as promised in the ruling Awami League's election manifesto.

Although some steps have been taken by the education and the primary and mass education ministry, the sector, said the Campaign for Popular Education executive director, Rasheda K Chowdhury.

Talented people are not coming to the teaching profession for a poor salary structure, she said.

She said that the standards of education could not be improved without a higher salary structure for teachers.

Educationalists say that a higher salary structure for teachers is crucial to creating sustainable development in the education sector.

The education ministry has formed a committee relating to this but the committee has only met once and teachers expressed their frustration whether the government could fulfil it in its tenure.

We do not see any progress in implementing a separate pay scale in the past three years. Many other demands of the teachers are also pending, said Mofazzol Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Government Secondary Assistant Teachers' Association.

The Bangladesh Shikshak Sanity president, Azizul Islam, said that he saw very little progress for a separate pay scale for teachers.

A higher salary scale for teachers should be the first priority for a sustainable development in the education sector, said the Campaign for Popular Education executive director, Rasheda K Chowdhury.

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years of the present government.

He said that the ministry was working for a separate salary structure for teachers.

The government has also not taken up a number of other demands of teachers.

Towards the end of 2010, several thousand non-government primary teachers observed hunger strike for some days demanding nationalisation of jobs with their leader Shamsul Alam claiming that two teachers had died in the hunger strike.

Another election manifesto pledged for improving the standards of education in government secondary schools has also remained unfulfilled.

Two hundred and twenty-five out of the 317 government secondary schools had man without headteachers for quite a long time although recently the positions have been filled.

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