

24 Report

New question system plan for SSC exams uncertain

DU Correspondent

The introduction of structured questions (S.Q) in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations is likely to fail as the teachers and students are still in the dark about the new type of question papers though seven months of the academic session 2007-2008 have already elapsed.

Earlier in May, the ministry of education decided that the students of secondary school level (now in class IX) would face the questions of new type, marks set for different segments of a question instead of the essay types now in practice in the 2009 Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination.

The ministry issued a gazette notification in June in this regard and asked the authorities to send it to the teachers of more than 15,000 secondary schools of the country.

But a number of teachers and students of secondary schools knew nothing of the new type of question papers.

Some experienced teachers are involved in setting and moderating question papers of the SSC exams under different education boards. The project might fail, as the government would not get enough time to train the teachers.

A number of teachers of different schools have not received any such orders till date. The schools are in seventh month of the academic year. The first terminal exam was over. The second terminal exams are scheduled in the first week of August. But many of the schools are still going by the old system of question papers.

The teachers and students of many secondary schools are in the dark about it. But they need to get going to new system.

Meanwhile, a number of guardians of some reputed institutions at a news conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity on Saturday urged the Chief Adviser not to implement the proposed method in the SSC exam. They said that the reputed institutions including Ideal, Viqueunnesa, Wills Little have known nothing of the new type of question papers.

The government backtracked from its decision on the introduction of single-track education in class IX from 2006 as it did not have enough preparation for the adoption of the system.

Now the government has decided to introduce question papers of new type. But it has no preparation to train the teachers who will be implementing the systems.

Sources in the education ministry said that the introduction of the structured question is a component of a Taka 793 crore Secondary Education Sector Development Project.

The structured questions were earlier scheduled to be set for the examinees for the 2008 exams. But the groundwork in this regard has been halted since November 2005.

(See Page 15 Col. 2)

New question

(From Back Page Col. 3)

A structured question will ask several bits of information on a single topic. There will be 40 marks for structured questions instead of 50 marks now customary with essay-type questions. There will be 40 marks for multiple-choice questions instead of 50.

The new system will not be applicable to the English papers and the Bengali second papers.