

New numbering system for answer scripts

By A Staff Reporter

The Dhaka Education Board authorities have strengthened the system of flow of answer scripts used for SSC and HSC examinations to guard against "missing" and consequent misuse of such scripts.

Under the system serial numbers are put manually keeping no scope for any fault in the enumeration of the scripts printed and distributed to different examination centres. The examination centres and the examiners are also required to send used scripts in specified packages so that there could be no pilferage during their transportation from one place to another.

Earlier serial numbers on scripts were put mechanically, and as there were damages of

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scripts in the printing process the board could not keep consistency in serial numbers. And in the absence of the use of specified package there were many instances of pilferage of scripts during transportation.

Keeping track of over tens of lakhs of answer scripts required for SSC and HSC examinations, during their flow from the printing presses to the board, from the board to examination centres and back and again from the board to examiners and back was a stupendous task. The board authorities so far could not secure cent per cent control on flow of scripts due to sheer magnitude of the task.

As a result there were in the past various ways of misusing the answer scripts. There were instances in which people managed to get scripts secretly, filled those outside examination halls and helped concerned examinees to submit such scripts in place of the scripts actually supplied in the examination halls.

In some other instances, people were caught while trying to remove original scripts submitted by candidates, and replace those with freshly filled in scripts much after the end of the examinations.

The new system of controlling the flow of scripts proved effective during the just concluded SSC examinations of 1983 when the Dhaka Board printed a total of nine lakh 65 scripts.

By keeping up-to-date records about distribution of the scripts to different centres by following the serial numbers the board could keep track of each and every answer script, including those kept as reserve.

The Chairman of the Board Prof. Mosharraf Hossain told The Times that before the start of the SSC examinations the superintendents of the examination centres were instructed to inform the board beforehand if there were anomalies between the supplies of scripts and their records, or if any script was damaged. The board was thus in a position to fix responsibilities for misuse of any of the scripts.

After the end of the examinations, most of the conductors of examination centres sent back the used scripts to the board in specified packages. Fifteen centres which failed to maintain the specifications were warned. However, there was no pilferage of scripts during the SSC examinations, the Board Chairman said.

The board would maintain similar standards while sending scripts to examiners, and getting those back for publication of results, the Chairman added.

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