

Dacca WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28 1979

## Plea to make primary education compulsory by '83

The National Education Advisory Council (NEAC) has recommended making present free primary education compulsory by 1983 in phases, reports ENA.

This was contained in the final report of the NEAC on interim education policy adopted on February 8.

According to the recommendation primary education should be made compulsory up to class I during the current year while up to class II, III, IV and V respectively by 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983.

It said primary education will be universal, compulsory and free for a period of five years.

The aim of primary education will be to develop the children physically, mentally and morally to create awareness about the economic and social environment among the children and to imbibe in them the spirit of patriotism, nationalism and the country's tradition.

The NEAC further recommended that about 30,000 new primary schools having single class room should be set up in the village to make the programme a success. New classes will be added every year in such schools.

These schools will be run side by side with the existing full-fledged primary schools.

The NEAC suggested that a national team of educational workers should be raised to meet the requirement of the new one-class primary schools for an interim period up to 1983.

It said that full-time trained teachers should be appointed in these schools with the end of this interim system in 1983. For this, 150,000 teachers more should be appointed in addition to the present 1,75,000. The process of appointing new teachers should gradually be completed by 1983 with the appointment of 30,000 teachers every year.

The NEAC noted that the existing facilities of primary education are not fully utilised because a large number of students leave schools due to poverty. It said most of the existing 87,000 primary schools

have not 250 students each that it can accommodate. Under this circumstance the NEAC suggested that land reforms as well as basic social and economic reforms should be initiated to implement the programme of making primary education compulsory.

According to the recommendation there will be a uniform syllabus for the primary education. It suggested that kindergartens and other special schools should be closed and thereby merged into general primary schools. It called for supplying books and other educational materials free of cost to the children of marginal and landless peasants. Suggestions have also been made to provide the children of marginal and landless peasants with nutritious food in schools.

The NEAC recommended to formulate a uniform service rule for the primary school teachers keeping their service status intact.

It said that female teachers should be appointed in primary schools on priority basis.

Turning to primary education administration the NEAC said it should be under the local government and a union education committee would be set up with representatives from all sections of people. There will be a managing committee under each union education committee for the new primary schools.

According to the recommendation primary education will be financed by both the national and local government.