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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Bangladesh Times, 1 DIT Avenue, Dhaka 2

Calculators and H.S.C. examination

With reference to Mr. M.M. Masud's letter under the above caption published in your issue of 10th November 1983 it may not be inappropriate if one disagrees with his suggestions regarding the use of calculator in the H.S.C. Examination.

Students upto H.S.C level should do calculations by themselves without the help of calculator so as to develop accuracy and promptness in calculations. Moreover import of calculators involves hard earned foreign exchange. On estimate foreign exchange

equivalent to Tk. 13800000.00 may be required to feed the examinees (Science Group) whose number may be around 46000 per year (taking Tk. 300 per calculator). Of course this amount would be needed if all the candidates can afford to buy calculators.

Most of the candidates would not be able for they may not have same financial standing. Therefore benefit of calculator would be available only to those fortunate who would be able to afford the same. Consequently longer examination for those who would be without calculator and possibly there would also be inaccuracy of calculation on their part and as a result they would have disadvantage

in the examination with possibility of scoring lesser marks. It is preferable that in a poor country like ours calculator should be allowed in post-graduate and professional courses.

The decision of the Education Boards on use of calculators in the H.S.C Examination deserves consideration.

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Education boards

They say government is contemplating to merge the four Education Boards in-to one at a time when decentralisation is the declared policy of

the present government. I think decentralisation in respect of the existing four Education Boards proved viable and manageable and as such government should not disturb the present structure.

The extent an scope of decentralisation and centralisation should be explored keeping in view the total population of the country and there should be a limit to the number of students population served by a Board. It should be small enough to be self-sufficient and large enough to be well managed.

I think one Board is not a solution of the problem rather it will create problems. Let us think in terms of the language of 'Operations Research' which says if service rate is not commensurate

with the arrival rate the situation is likely to become explosive. The students and others will be affected in terms of cost time and efficiency. Since one board will not be able to manage the affairs in a way to the advantage of the student community and the people at large and as such the existing four boards should function as they are doing now.

The four boards should introduce similar books for the students with the flexibility to differ in respect of syllabus and question paper setting. This will ensure homogeneous standard to some extent. Co-ordination could only improve and ensure efficiency of the four boards.

I would therefore urge the authority concerned to set aside the idea of one Board for the greater interest of the country.

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