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An Appeal

Sir—The government nationalised 22 colleges about a year back with a view to improving the standard of education in the country. The objectives behind the scheme were to remove the financial insolvency to uplift the dignity of the teachers and above all, to accelerate the development of these institutions as a whole. So this meaningful step was welcomed by the people of all walks of life particularly the young and educated group.

But following the declaration of taking over the management of these colleges by the government the steps necessary to expedite the process to give a complete shape to the policy have not been taken properly. Due to this since May 7, 1979 the teaching and non-teaching staff of these colleges have been suffering from financial stringency; these employees (both gazetted and non-gazetted) have not yet been paid their salaries.

This has created a sense of disappointment among these employees and they are in despair. Consequently, the aims and objectives of the policy have remained unfulfilled. If this continues the existing standard of education is further going to deteriorate. Again the guidelines which are supplied for determining the position of the staff are defective and ambiguous. It is seen from the guidelines given by the Government that only those teachers who hold Master's Degree with First Class will have 100 per cent service benefit in the nationalised colleges whereas the Second Class Master's Degree holders will have 50 per cent of that in their credit. The guideline is silent about those teachers who hold Second Class Master's Degree with Second Class Honours.

But according to the rules of the Universities and the Public Service Commission the Second Class Master's Degree with Second Class Honours Degree is treated as equivalent to the 1st Class Master's Degree. Moreover in the guideline nothing about previous experiences of the teachers in different private colleges is mentioned at all.

The present position of the staff and the colleges can better be imagined than described. The position of the teachers should be settled as early as possible, thus to help them to draw their appropriate salary in these hard days.

We earnestly and sincerely request the relevant authorities to take early steps to redress the sufferings of the employees and to restore the educational environment as a whole—Yours etc. AKHTAR AHMED, Lecturer, Department of Economics, Azam Khan Commerce College, Khulna.