

190

তারিখ ... 15 JUN 1997 ..
 পৃষ্ঠা ৫ কলাম ...

Meaningful education

The upgradation of education to ensure its high quality for enabling our nation to compete with the rest of the world in varied spheres of meaningful activities with advantage will be the right approach towards speedy national advancement. The Government seems to have identified it as a matter requiring urgent and wholesome attention. It appears to have also recognised that the desired improvement can be obtained only through the removal of accumulated rot in the education sector and qualitative policy changes which were long overdue in view of the strides globally in the arena. Meaningful education holds the key to progress in all other fields.

Education Minister ASHK Sadique used the word 'drastic' at a recent discussion on the subject to qualify the kind of changes essential to effect in education for upgrading its quality to the level when it could ensure better return commensurate with the huge investment and serve as the effective backbone of the nation to enable it to stand erect and look forward to a prosperous future with confidence. The resolve of the Government to upgrade education is reflected in the formation of the national committee on education policy which works independently and is now busy in framing a draft policy for submission within the coming month. The Minister has assured the nation that the draft education policy will be placed before Parliament for a critical scrutiny so that all could contribute to its improvement prior to its approval. It's the right approach to framing a national policy on a matter of overriding importance.

Hopefully, all MPs on both sides of Parliament will do the best possible homework for an enlightening discussion on the contemplated draft education policy on the floor of the House so as to make their individual contributions to its framing really substantial, relevant and noteworthy. The advance oral notice, served by the Education Minister, about the placing of the draft education policy before Parliament for consideration and approval leaves enough time for all our lawmakers to prepare well with pertinent information at their own level and then come up with concrete suggestions of unalloyed merit. The Opposition, whose constructive suggestions can make enormous contribution to making good governance a reality, should prove with enlightening discussions and substantive amendment proposals that it's the shadow Government which has equally concentrated on the national issues with full commitment.

The indication from the Education Minister that note-books up to class X and their advertisement in any form may be declared illegal is itself an indication that the Government has convinced itself that education doesn't barely mean gathering information nor acquisition of certificates alone; but it also includes training the mind for systematic thinking and deductions. Note-books, whose authors do the thinking on behalf of students in summarising texts and solving problems, condense education and convert students into robots incapable of independent thinking and resolving new problems. It betrays the purpose of education. The sooner the contemplated ban comes into being the better. Along side, emphasis should be laid on checking campus violence and restoration of academic discipline for obtaining the desired result.