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## Standard of education in secondary schools falls

From Our Correspondent

**PANCHAGARH, Aug 7:**—The average standard of secondary education in the country including Panchagarh district has deteriorated.

There are about 100 non-government high schools in five thanas of the district. These schools are beset with innumerable problems hampering education of about 30,000 students.

According to survey, in the non-government secondary schools, salary of teachers is meagre. Besides many schools of the district are unable to pay 30 per cent salary of teachers due to fund constraint.

Moreover there is a government ban to increase the tuition fees of the students but the institutions have no other source of income. Hence teachers with no proper qualifications have been engaged in non-government high schools.

Good English language teachers are not available in the non-government high schools.

The private coaching has been commercialised throughout the district. The teachers are busy with their private coaching, and they can hardly give full attention to their students in the classes.

The schools do not have their own syllabus. The question papers are bought from question sellers at cheap rate, whereas the examination fees are collected from the students at a very high rate, guardians alleged.

Classes are not held during the first 6 to 7 months of the academic year on the plea of non-availability of the government approved text books. Most of the books are not available in the markets even after

receiving the book list.

Besides, classes remain suspended for about 20 to 25 days in all schools of the district as the schools are used for SSC examinations. This affects the academic routine of students.

These schools also remain closed for Ramadhan. For this reason the first terminal examination is held practically without completing even one-fourth portion of the syllabus.

It is observed that only 15 to 20 per cent of the students pass in all subjects and the rest are promoted to the next classes failing in 3 to 4 subjects.

This tendency compelled the students to adopt unfair means in the examination halls.

The teachers do not follow modern methods of teaching. They impart lessons in the classes without any plan.

Homework is not given to the students. It seems that it is out of practice at present. Merit is not judged at the time of admission of the students in the different classes specially in those schools where enrolment has fallen remarkably.

The practical classes in the science laboratories are held nominally and practical works are not performed properly. The class routines, which are made for the year is not sufficient to the total syllabus. The syllabus of first terminal examination cannot be completed properly. Besides class routines are not made on the basis of recognised principles.

A few schools having libraries lack required number of books. Library fees are collected from students but books are not distributed among the students regularly.