

Editorial

The New Nation

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S.S.C. RESULTS

Compared to past performance of the S.S.C examinees, the just published results of the four Boards are definitely an improvement. Whether the overall standard of this year's students and that of our education have also gone up is however a different matter. If these results are at all satisfactory, it is precisely because we have accepted as final an examination system in which almost half of those appearing at different examinations are thought unlikely to come out successful. We are yet to go a long way before we admit that the failure of a large number of students in different examinations every year cannot be anything other than the inherent defects of an education system we have been following for so long a time.

In the meantime, however, the education system and teaching methods the world over—particularly in the developed countries—have undergone radical changes. The wastage in terms of academic years and money could be avoided there following the adoption of some scientific and pragmatic measures. We know how difficult it is for us to go for a change in the present system of teaching and examina-

tion. But how long can we continue to jam the academic sessions which have already become a major threat to tertiary level of general education? The overall education and employment scenario does not at all look bright and it is on this count the political decision, which plays a vital role in formulating education policies, needs to be unbiased and pragmatic.

In an economic situation such as this, the students can hardly expect to have equal opportunities and therefore the competition at the examinations can never be fair. Performance of village schools and city schools widely varies largely because of the unequal backgrounds they come from. There are numerous others disparities we require to overcome before we can set a system ensuring just and equal opportunities for our young learners. Unless and until we can create a proper atmosphere for the education we need for the country's well-being, we are almost fated to suffer socially, economically and scientifically.

Political and economic considerations apart, this year's results have reversed the good scores that were over the past few years in favour of the girl students. The percentages of different Boards again have shown the wide gaps between them, although there is no way of judging the merit of the students at the top on the lists by a few marks' difference.