

### Change In Examination System

Every year the newspapers give wide coverage to those fortunate boys and girls who find a position in the merit lists of the S.S.C. examinations. Interviews given by those meritorious students occupy much of the front pages of the papers. But following the publication of the examination results another kind of reports is also published by the same newspapers—reports about suicides committed by one or two of those students who failed to come out successful.

Roughly half the students sitting for the S.S.C. examinations fail. It is, therefore, natural to wonder if it is the students who fail, or it is the very system of examination or that of education that fails. A section of educationists and guardians have been of the opinion that our system of examination has become obsolete and needs to be changed. The authorities have at last come to agree to this view. A decision has reportedly been taken to introduce changes in the system of examination. The changes are to be introduced gradually beginning next year at class VIII level.

There is no reason to differ on the question of reform of the system of examination. The system makes objective assessments difficult and also encourages learning by rote and adoption of unfair means in the examination halls. But one wonders if the change that is going to be introduced will not create any new problems. For, our experience regarding past reforms in the educational system has been quite disappointing. With every reform education has become difficult, the curriculum has been rendered more burdensome and dependence of the pupils on outside-classroom help has increased. All this has happened because of decisions taken and implemented hastily on the whims of one or more individuals. And no reform has brought about any improvement in the standard of education. We hope the authorities will look at the issue from all aspects before going for specific changes. The authorities should also keep it in mind that a change in the system of examination must also be accompanied by a change in the attitude of the examiners who have so long been habituated to a time-old system.