



The education scene

APART from the unsettled conditions in the highest seats of learning in the country, high rates of failure in SSC and HSC examinations and mass copying, despite strict invigilation, have been in the news for quite some time. The programme of universal primary education of open-air class also seems to stumble even after the NGOs playing a vital role side by side with the government efforts. Poor standard of coaching in the classrooms, teachers' eye on the income from private tuition, defective syllabus and curriculum and faulty system of education have mainly been identified as the causes of high rate of failure in the examinations. The educationists have suggested creation of proper climate for teaching in the educational institutions, employment of

adequate number of qualified and trained teachers, supply of text books and other teaching aids on time and stricter test examinations. All these rhyme well with some of the recommendation of the Committee on Examination Reforms which include employment of adequate number of qualified teachers, regular training of teachers, improvement of socio-economic status of teachers, creation of congenial atmosphere in educational institutions, instilling a sense of discipline in students and a sense of responsibility in teachers.

As it is always wise to begin at the beginning, the battle for restoring the health of the social ethos is to be begun on the educational front. A sound system of education with the major thrust on science and the moral values along with the development of agriculture and employment generating agro-based industries is an imperative which we can ignore only at our own peril.