



S.S.C. or H.S.C. examinations should, for that particular examination of the particular year, have any involvement in any form in conducting the examination or preparing the results or in anything in the whole examination process.

Understandably this step is being taken to maintain impartiality and to ensure fairness, at least to that part of the whole examination process where the teachers are involved. Quite a good and reasonable step and will also yield good results if others too involved in the process—the students, the guardians and Education Board authorities—also behave rationally and with all fairness of the purpose. Such restrictions were already there in fact for a long time. May be they were forgotten in practice. We hope the new awakening will be reflected in practice and none will have to grumble about the credibility of the public examinations.

The education ministry has also in the same circular, put some restrictions on those teachers who are involved in private coaching. Here also the purpose of the ministry is quite obvious. Some guardians and those belonging to the conscious part of the citizenry had already been expressing their anxiety at the too much of commercialisation of education through private tutoring. Newspapers also ventilated their concern on the matter. Thus by taking a decision to the effect that henceforth no teachers who are busy

Private coaching and restrictions

THE Education Ministry is reported to have issued a circular to the effect that henceforth no teachers whose sons or daughters or close relatives would appear either at the

with private students at home or elsewhere should be involved in the examination process, has only responded to public demands.

The teachers can either extend their cooperation to this decision or they may criticise, even react, in their own ways. Reportedly some of them have in the meantime, started pointing out the complications which may arise out of the decision. Some having very good business of private tuition have, reportedly, opted for continuing private coaching which pays handsomely, to doing examination works which is not so paying in their assessment and outlook. May be, the questions they have raised about the problems of materialising the idea and the complication that may issue forth, are not based on mere emotion. But they should consider under what circumstances such a decision could occur in the minds of those having some responsibility about education.

There was a day when teachers could not think of accepting any extra-charges or fees from students for giving special attention to a selected number of students. Then through the process of socio-economic changes, they had also to adapt themselves to the situations and the erosion started. And now, not only the school teachers but also the college teachers, in some cases even the university teachers, are merrily busy with their private students. The

whole blame of this erosion cannot certainly be put on them and they should not be particularly isolated as the greedy and money spinning section. But anything, when it goes beyond limits, catches public eyes. The teachers should rather consider the bottomline of the restrictions imposed on them, than contest the decision of the education ministry or react at the decision.

Obviously the commercial aspect of private tutoring has been much too attractive for some teachers. Why for teachers alone, situations have so arisen that in some cases even non-teachers serving for example, radio or television or government organisations having nothing to do with teaching, are sometimes finding it lucrative to be attached to tutorial homes.

Problems and sufferings of the fixed income group under the existing socio-economic conditions need no elaboration. But that does not necessarily mean that teachers should concentrate on money making, like contractors or other businessmen, leaving aside the ethics of the profession. So long the doctors were being criticised for their too much of attraction to money than to the actual profession. It will be really unfortunate if the teachers also fall on the same line or if they want to compete in catching maximum number of private clients than imparting education to their regular students.