

Children's education undermined

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EDUCATION of about 1.37 crore children in government schools are under severe strain as one-third of head teacher posts in primary and one-fifth of teaching posts in secondary schools lie vacant.

The data on existing

teacher shortages was provided by the ministers concerned at the parliament on Thursday.

Primary and mass education minister Mostafizur Rahman and education minister Nurul Islam Nahid told the parliament that the process of filling the posts was underway.

Nahid revealed that the government had failed to fill some 2,000 teaching posts in secondary schools across the country.

'A process is underway for recruiting teachers against the vacant posts in secondary schools,' he said.

The government would recruit teachers particularly

in subjects such as Bangla, English, mathematics, social science, religious studies, geography, physical science, zoology, commerce, physical education, fine arts and agriculture education, Nahid said.

According to secondary and higher education directorate officials, there are

about 10,100 teaching posts in 333 government secondary schools that have around 2.75 lakh students.

The minister also told the parliament that the government had a plan to establish general or specialised universities in every district through public-private

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partnerships to provide higher education.

He added that the cabinet had approved a draft bill for setting up two public universities — Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Science and Technology University and Sheikh Hasina University.

Meanwhile, primary and mass education minister Mostafizur Rahman told the parliament that 20,561 head teacher posts in government primary schools were unfilled.

Initiatives for recruiting teachers to fill the vacancies through Public Service

Commission is underway,' he added.

According to primary education directorate officials, around 3.43 lakh teachers in 64,122 government primary schools are imparting education to 1.34 crore students.

Primary Teachers' Association president Abul Bashar told New Age that an acting head teacher often could not take many decisions and failed to deliver the leadership a head teacher was to provide.

He emphasised the vital role that a head teacher plays in almost every activity in schools, including

management of the staff, implementation of the academic calendar, monitoring of school discipline, co-curricular activities, daily schedule and general atmosphere of the institution.

Teachers and officials said that the shortage of teachers was one of the major reasons for the government primary schools trailing behind non-government or private schools in public examinations.

Nowadays, many guardians are unwilling to send their children to government primary schools, they observed.