

### Fight Out Illiteracy

Sir.—Illiteracy creates many problems obstructing development of the nation. This issue is also connected with many other problems such as (1) Ever-increasing population (2) Lack of facilities for proper utilization of the total available manpower (3) Lack of adequate knowledge and consciousness of the duties and responsibilities to society and the state. In fact 80% people of our country are illiterate. On the other side the woman constitutes half of the manpower in our country whereas 92 per cent of women are illiterate. So, we find that at least 75% per cent people of our country are illiterate.

I am of the opinion that no problem will be satisfactorily solved unless and until illiteracy is fought out. Now the question is who will take the initiative in this great task. Government should patronise it and it has been already declared by the government that illiteracy must be wiped out at any cost.

Notwithstanding government's all-out efforts to remove illiteracy the role of the young generation in this respect cannot be under-estimated. We may start the gigantic task to remove illiteracy in the following way.

Two to three months' time that every examinee has at his disposal after his examination can be utilized in national development work. In this respect mandatory provision may be made to the effect that all participants in all the public examinations except the examinations conducted by the Public Service Commission shall spend their non-work time between the closure of the examination and the publication of the result in national development work suitable for each age group and qualification. All these participants shall be awarded certificate and prize and lump sum money for refreshment.

College and University students may call on their illiterate family members and neighbours to request them to learn to read and write.

The success of all programmes depends on publicity. The young may make propaganda regarding of course of illiteracy using slogans to arouse public sentiment against illiteracy.

It is necessary to open Night Schools throughout country and educated young may be appointed voluntary teachers in those schools. The Union Parishads and Pourashavas may take interest in this respect.

I hope that educated young will come forward to fight out illiteracy. And leading persons of society and administrative machinery will take adequate step in this respect and help them accordingly. In fact without the direct help of the Government this tough problem cannot be solved within the shortest possible time, as required for the rapid development of the nation.

To remove illiteracy I would like to submit the following proposal for consideration:

(1) To form "Illiteracy Eradication Committee" from National level to village unit with combination of public representative government officials and social workers.

(2) To set up a separate department with a view to eradicating illiteracy under Education or Social Welfare Ministry.

(3) To pass an ordinance to eradicate illiteracy.

(4) To make primary education compulsory and extend it upto Class VIII from Class V.

(5) To establish primary school as required by the number of population.

(6) To include a chapter on "eradication of illiteracy" in the syllabus of students of College and University. Yours etc.

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