

- Admission Tests For M. B. B. S. Course

Sir.—Admission tests in Medical Colleges have commenced. We venture to bring to your attention through the columns of your esteemed daily that a sense of frustration prevails amongst the candidates for admission to the M.B.B.S. course. Guardians are not less worried about the future of their wards in the present situations.

The candidates for admission in the first year M.B.B.S. course are victims of these unprecedented circumstances as stated below :—

(1) Crowded condition created by the amalgamation of candidates of two batches, 1976 and 1977. (2) Non-increase of number of seats in Medical colleges over the existing ones. (3) Discontinuation of district-wise quota system from Medical colleges (4) Marks for admission test for M.B.B.S. have been fixed at 450 as per the following distributions :—

(a) On S.S.C. Examination, 100 Marks, (b) On H.S.C. Examination, 200 Marks, (c) On written test, 100 Marks, (d) On viva voce test, 50 Marks.

(5) The total number of available seats in the first year M.B.B.S. classes in Medical colleges of the country is only 1300, whereas the number of First Division securing 70% marks and above is said to be many times the number of available seats. This being the situation, the chance of Second Divisioners for admission competing with the First Divisioners is very bleak, especially when the H.S.C. marks secured by individuals are going to be doubled, thereby creating a wider gap between the first Divisioners and the Second Divisioners. This position is a negation to Second Divisioners for admission in the course, although they have been allowed to compete with the First Divisioners. (4) This also leads one to think that since the admission tests involve big expenditures imposed

on guardians in the form of fees, conveyances, etc., therefore, it would rather be better if the admission tests were confined to the First Divisioners only.

In the above perspectives, we fervently invite the kind notice of the authorities to the said problems affecting the nation and suggest the following remedies for sympathetic consideration and immediate favourable action :—

1. That the marks of H.S.C. like those of S.S.C. be fixed at 100 instead of a 200 giving unnecessary emphasis to H.S.C. Accordingly, the qualifying base marks which are learnt to be 72%, be lowered reasonably.

2. That either the number of seats for first year M.B.B.S. students in Medical colleges be considerably increased if not doubled, or managements be made to introduce the system of double shift classes with the enrolment of sufficient number of students, specially because the country badly needs quite a large number of physicians for the increasing population and for meeting the big demand of doctors abroad which earns valuable foreign exchange for Bangladesh.

3. A reasonable district quota system should be re-introduced.

4. In fine, the names of candidates already selected for admission in the BUET, Dacca, Engineering colleges, Bangladesh Agricultural College, Dacca, BAU Mymensingh, should be collected and they should not be allowed to contest with their fellow brethren seeking admission to Medical Colleges. This will help to avoid rush to a great extent.

Unless the aforesaid steps are urgently taken, we are afraid, a large number of candidates for M.B.B.S. course will have to remain unadmitted this year. We earnestly hope and pray that the Ministry of Health and Family Planning will be pleased to give proper weight to our views and suggestions.—Yours etc. IQBAL K A R I M, MAHBUBUZZAMAN, and NUR N A B I, Sher-e-Banglanagar Dacca—15.