ভাৰিখ		77	
প্র্যন্ত :			
श्रृष्ठा।	 stratist.	·····	,=

## he Bangladesh Times

DACCA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1977.

For technological bias

No one will probably deny that the correlation between ignorance and consequent existence of poverty is umbilical. In this sense any investment to improve the knowledgeability of our backward people is certainly welcome move. The proposed 700 crore taka five year plan for development of science in the country has to be viewed from that angle of vision. It represents a conscious attempt to secure the knowledge base for the country's uninterrupted advancement in the desired direction. Yet, before actual execution of the plan begins, evaluation of certain considerations seems necessary.

It was learnt that one-third of this money (around 233 crores) to be spent on the five year programme would be used exclusively for education and research in different institutions. While the sum is not excessive considering our vast needs, yet when it comes to a crucial question of choosing between priorities, it seems that emphasis on applied science is probably the most desired. We certainly cannot allow budgetary allocations to be devoured for idyllic theoretical education or the luxuries of irrelevant research. Any stock-taking will show how institutions and facilities, devoted to science education, have mushroomed over the years, which had negligible or sometimes no link at all with the mainstream of our national efforts. A comprehensive science policy has to take into account the wastages involved on emphasis, which were the characteristics of past years, and should adopt necessary corrective measures.

In many ways, the country's technological needs are more pressing than scientific requirements. We probably have no dearth of science graduates lacking specialisation or skill. But for filling the many positions in the economy, where trained manpower with higher, intermediate, or even primary know-how are vital for advancement, the supply is no more than a trickle. The process can be reversed only with a major shift in policy away from undue preference for routine science education.

One stumbling block currently standing in the way of greater accessibility to technical education is shortage of locally available instructors. There can be only one solution to the problem. The best young men in the country should be sent out increasingly, and on a priority basis, to acquire the desired expertise from abroad. Wherever and whenever possible, arrangement should be made for bringing here foreign instructors to hasten the technological breakthrough. These suggestions may apparently seem hackneyed about the reconstruction of the problem of the problem in the problem.

043