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Degree Course For Engineering Diploma Holders

It is a fact that engineering diploma holders have so far had reason to feel cribbed and cabin-ed having been denied facilities for higher education in their line to improve their academic status and job and other opportunities. The reported decision by the government to introduce a preparatory course in three engineering colleges (Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong) of the country is therefore very heartening news for this section of technical students.

There is no doubt that many among those holding engineering diplomas possess potentials that would easily steer them through a higher course of studies, and it will be seen that only lack of opportunities and other circumstantial advantages keep these promising students from their cherished goals in education—or engineering education in the present case. A successful completion of the preparatory course will enable them to get admitted to the third year degree course in engineering under the reported arrangements. It may be recalled that by the above measure the government has fulfilled a long standing demand of engineering diploma holders. Besides, while this has been announced as an interim step in compliance with the students' demands, an implementation committee set up by

the government is expected to work out the details with a view to turning this into a permanent measure.

It will, we think, be very relevant to say in this connection that facilities so provided would be fruitful both for the student concerned as well as the country only when the former exerts his best to improve himself educationally taking all the pains that higher studies will entail. It will require of him total commitment; and without full use of his potentials any opportunity however spacious will be of little avail to him.

As for the country, technical manpower is among its pressing needs. And what is most desired and would be useful from the national point of view is both the size and quality of such manpower. Any interruption in the course of studies must by all means be avoided by students' initiative and effort in their own interest, particularly when the government has shown its earnest consideration of the demands of the engineering diploma holders. Incidentally students of the polytechnic institutes of the country have reportedly been on strike since December 15. We hope, in view of the decision taken by the government regarding the major demands of these students' they would return to their classes to prevent further loss to their studies.