

Education Minister replies to question on national education promotion

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March- At today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Than Sein of Kyimyindine Township constituency asked undertakings of the Ministry of Education for promotion of national education.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein said that the Ministry of Education is giving priority to the following sectors for promotion of national education. He explained accessibility to basic education and higher education for the people of any area. The State opened over 40,900 basic education schools that increased 1.2 times more than that of the past. Three schools are opened in five villages on average for enabling the children to easily pursue education.

In the higher education sector, a total of 161 universities, degree colleges and colleges have been opened throughout the nation, which increased five times more than that of 1988. The Ministry of Education appointed over 12,000 faculty members that rose two times more than that of 1988 and 0.505 million university students are 4.5 times more than of 1988. It can be seen that those wishing to learn higher education have equal opportunity in the higher education sector.

In the basic education sector, students are being nurtured through the international standard curriculum and syllabus. Two Institutes of Education and 20 education colleges are producing qualified teachers. Moreover, teachers were provided with refresher courses and orientation courses for uplifting their proficiency. In addition, MEd and PhD courses were conducted to uplift proficiency of the teachers. A total of 56 doctorate faculty members were appointed as heads of Basic Education Schools. To be able to effectively supervise academic and management of basic education schools, basic education school management refresher courses were opened for township education officers.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and departments, inspection tours are made to the basic education schools, universities and colleges once for every three months.

In higher education sector, the ministry is opening courses for international standard first degree, master's course, MRes course and doctoral course, sending foreign scholarship courses, holding seminars with participation of professors abroad by linking foreign universities, supervising doctoral theses and jointly conducting research works. Moreover, research journals are published at universities and research centres installed with modern research equipment opened.

Curricula and syllabuses are reviewed yearly and upgraded for meeting international standard. In addition, the ministry manages to compile project or term paper or thesis at all pregraduate classes.

In the basic education sector, the ministry cooperates with UNICEF and UNESCO, JICA and KOICA.

In the higher education sector, the ministry joins the ASEAN Universities Network (AUN) and establishes Myanmar-India Economic Efficiency Education Centre in cooperation with India. Joining hands with KOICA, the Asia Research Centre was established for conducting research on languages. By opening the Centre for History Tradition of the SEAMEO, the ministry cooperates with experts from ASEAN countries, sends scholarship students to foreign universities and exchange emeritus professors.

With regard to diversity of selected learning opportunity in the basic and higher education sectors, students are being nurtured with basic vocational course at the middle school level and optional subject at the high school level.

The higher education sector has 215 academic programmes in 2011 compared with 79 in 1988, increasing 2.7 times. MRes and doctoral courses are opened in all subjects.

Modern courses on Nano Technology, Bio-technology and Renewable energy are being conducted.

Moreover, the lessons on flourishing of Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit are being provided to all the students since their childhood. Students' assemblies, talks to mark significant days and the literary and fine arts contests were held at basic education schools and universities.

With a view to improving national education standard and developing human resources, the ministry is systematically creating equal learning opportunity for all students, promoting their efficiency, and forging nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit which are the most important for all the citizens.

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