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servient capitalists, civil and military bureaucracy, is responsible for their flawed internal and external policies that resulted in disintegration of the motherland. They also coalesced in plundering the national exchequer through tax evasion, written off bank loans and other irregularities, thus bringing the country at the brink of economic disaster.

There is general perception that private schools and colleges are fleecing the students, but the government continue to privative schools and colleges in one way or another. A number of schools and colleges have been returned to the original owners. Railways schools have been contracted to private schools conglomerate, and there is a plan that government's educational institutions will be run by the NGO's. The matter has been placed on the back burner for the time being in the wake of protests by the Joint Action Committee comprising

Teachers associations, Pakistan Talba Mahaz and Doctors associations. According to them, the new managements have revised upwards the fees structure. Secondly, with the introduction of the Board of Governors, there will be no security of service. JAC has a point that the educational institutions own valuable land and property, and there is every possibility that the prestigious sites will be sold and the institutions will be shifted to far-flung areas. When they do not find sufficient number of students, they will suggest to get rid of the teaching staff as the school or college is no more viable. In the past such practices were not uncommon when the schools or colleges were handed over to the previous owners. The evidence suggests that barring a few proverbial exceptions, no worthwhile contribution has been made in the realm of research by private universities, which are affiliated with the foreign universities having doubtful credentials.

In one of the articles written by ardent supporter of the ordinance, university professors were blamed for not making serious effort to revisit the relevance of the curricula to the needs of the market. But is it not the responsibility of the Ministry of Education to work in liaison with Ministry of Economic Planning? The curricula and determination of the needs of the market or the country do not fall within the ambit of teachers' responsibilities. Then why to blame them? If the government is sincere in reforming the education system, it must enter into dialogue with teachers, professors, parents and also the intellectuals to propose amendments in the ordinance to the satisfaction of all concerned. The government should bear in mind that about 50 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, which cannot afford two square meals a day. Millions belonging to the middle class can hardly pay their utility bills. In these circumstances, how can they afford to pay exorbitant fees charged by private educational institutions? In an Islamic country like Pakistan, it is the responsibility of the government to provide education and health facilities to the poor sections of the society. Finally, the elected assemblies and governments are in place; so matters of national importance should be discussed and decided in the assemblies and not by a handful of self-styled educationist.