

PLANS FOR TRAINING MORE TEMPORARY TEACHERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Government is studying a more extensive programme to train temporary teachers as quickly as possible, Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed told the Dewan Rakyat today.

Other measures being taken were:

- Training during the holidays, from time to time, for those who fulfil the necessary conditions; and

- Training in colleges for those who qualify.

The latter must apply to the Education Service Commission which would call for applications in the Press.

He was replying to Dr. Tan Chee Khoon (Peemas-Kepong) who wanted to know what plans the Government had to train the present 12,000 temporary teachers.

To supplementary questions by Dr. Tan, Dr. Ma-

hathir said there was such a great number of temporary teachers because the training colleges could not absorb all.

The rapid expansion of education — since independence — resulted in an increase in the number of teachers from 10,000 to 70,000. This had made it difficult for the Government to envisage the exact requirements.

The Ministry, he added, could not guarantee that there would be no shor-

tage of teachers. It would do its best to overcome the problem.

To a question by Mr. Chian Heng Kai (DAP-Batu Gajah), Dr. Mahathir said the Ministry did not intend to have separate courses to train teachers who would be assigned to National Type Primary Chinese schools.

This was because the present courses had a high standard of teaching in the language.