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(P) KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 20 (BERNAMA) — EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF CLASSES FOR PUPILS IN CHINESE MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

THE PROBLEM, HE ADDED DURING QUESTION TIME, WAS THAT PARENTS WERE CHOOSY AND WANTED TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOLS NEARBY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO DR. CHEN MAN HIN (DAP-SEREMBAN) WHO WANTED TO KNOW THE REASONS FOR THE +SHORTAGE+ OF CLASSES AND TEACHERS IN THE CHINESE MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS DID NOT AFFECT ONLY THE CHINESE MEDIUM SCHOOLS BUT ALL SCHOOLS AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING STEPS TO RECRUIT TEMPORARY TEACHERS WITH THE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS.

THE MINISTRY WAS ALSO TRAINING MORE TEACHERS AND FOUR MORE TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGES WOULD BE OPENED.

DR. MAHATHIR URGED PARENTS NOT TO BE TOO CHOOSY AND SELECTIVE IN ENROLLING THEIR CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS.

THE DAP MEMBER FOR MENGLEMBU, ENCIK FAN YEW TENG, ASKED IF THE EDUCATION MINISTRY WAS AWARE THAT TEACHERS WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THEIR HEAVY WORK-LOAD.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE MINISTRY WAS LOOKING INTO COMPLAINTS OF TEACHERS HAVING HEAVY WORKLOAD INCLUDING INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES OF THE MALAYSIAN SCHOOLS SPORT COUNCIL.

SUITABLE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN IF THE COMPLAINTS WERE JUSTIFIED, HE ADDED. —BERNAMA 1707/YF