

Cambridge

exam

fee up

'by the

N.S.I.
minimum'

17 APR 1975

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed.

— The Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate has increased the fees for the MCE/SPM and HSC/STP examinations by only the "barest minimum," Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

Dr. Mahathir, answering parents' complaints over the higher fees, said Cambridge had assured his Ministry that the fees were still lower than those charged in Britain for similar examinations.

The fees were raised from \$33.70 to \$103.67 for the MCE, from \$76.55 to \$93.15 for the SPM, and \$80.90 to \$90.80 for the HSC/STP.

He said the examinations were conducted by Cambridge with the collaboration with the Education Ministry's Examination Syndicate.

"Matters pertaining to such subjects as examination fees are the responsibility and prerogative of Cambridge.

Inevitable

"Being a non-Government body, Cambridge has to rely solely on its own financial resources to run those examinations.

"The latest rise in examination fees, the Ministry was told, was an inevitable outcome of inflationary trends over which Cambridge has no control," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said Cambridge decided to increase the fees only towards the end of last year, after "a very thorough consideration" of all aspects of the subject, including an earlier appeal by the Ministry to minimise the inevitable increase.

The Minister said the decision to increase the fees was conveyed to the Examination Syndicate only at the beginning of the year.

Certain clarifications and clearances had to be obtained by the Syndicate before the new fees could be announced.