

# NUTP: Review education system

IPOH: The Government has been urged to set up a Royal Commission to review the education system and come up with a comprehensive report on the changes needed.

National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) secretary-general Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said the commission should be empowered to recommend changes to the entire structure of the education system.

He said the last review in the form of a Cabinet Report was done in 1970 when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the Education Minister.

"After 21 years, certain

policies are outdated and not suitable.

"So I think that the time has come for us to have a relook.

"There are many new social problems now like the easy availability of pornographic VCDs and the *lepak* culture. These were regarded as isolated incidents by the ministry five years ago. But now we can see that they are real problems," he said at the opening of a seminar on problems in Tamil schools here yesterday.

Siva Subramaniam said the number of complaints on the education system were increasing.

He said the commission

should include prominent figures such as Tan Sri Dr Awang Had Salleh, Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, Royal Professor Ungku Aziz and members from the opposition parties.

He said it should restudy the education structure and recommend ways to improve the conditions for teachers, overcome social ills and upgrade teaching skills.

"Education Department officials must go down to the ground and find out the problems faced by the schools and students and not depend on reports from headmasters who tend to hide the problems," Siva Subramaniam said.