

ensure universal 11-year compulsory education. And at a certain stage in the future, we should expand higher educational institutions in a big way and gradually go over to the introduction of compulsory higher education. In increasing the higher educational institutions, the main stress should be laid on the expansion and development of the study-while-working educational system. Then we should see to it that higher education is given to all youths who have received universal 11-year compulsory education, without adversely affecting the labor front of socialist construction.

In order to ensure greater success in universal compulsory education, the educational institutions should be distributed to different areas in a rational way. To correctly distribute educational institutions regionally is of great significance in vigorously pushing ahead with the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions on a nationwide scale, reducing the differences between town and country and developing all regions of the country in a proportionate way.

Educational institutions should be rationally distributed in urban and rural communities and in industrial and agricultural zones by taking into consideration the regional characteristics of the country and the general balance. Higher educational institutions should be distributed on the principle of meeting the state demands for native cadres and building up comprehensive bases of cadre training in all provinces.

It is important to rationally arrange the composition of higher educational institutions by the scientific branches. On the basis of a correct calculation of the state demands for native cadres in each period, universities and colleges and their faculties and courses should be formed properly by the scientific branches, and the sizes of their student bodies determined correctly. In particular, with the progress of socialist and communist construction and the great development of natural science and technology, the proportion of the section of natural science and technology should be markedly greater than that of the liberal arts section.

System of Universal Free Education

Compulsory education becomes genuine only when it is given free of charge. The compulsory education which is not guaranteed by

free education cannot be called compulsory education. What fundamentally distinguishes the compulsory education in socialist society from the so-called "compulsory education" in capitalist society lies in the fact that the expenses of educational work are borne by the state to actually provide the people with the right and freedom to study. State-financed universal free education is possible only in socialist society where the means of production and educational facilities are owned by the state and the people and the interests of the state and the people in education work coincide with each other.

The most thoroughgoing free education is ensured in our country on the principle that the state assumes full responsibility for the education of the people.

Immediately after liberation when the economic situation in our country was very difficult, we already took measures to exempt the children of poor families from tuition fees and provide the students of specialized schools and colleges and universities with state scholarships. In the postwar years universal compulsory primary education and the universal compulsory secondary education were free. In 1959 state-financed universal free education was introduced in all educational institutions of our country.

Now we give universal 11-year compulsory education entirely free of charge and give free education to all children and students studying at educational institutions of all levels from kindergarten to institutions of higher learning. Not only school education but also all forms of social education are free, and adult education for cadres and working people is also given at state expense. The proportion of educational expenses in our state budget of expenditures is very great, and it is on the systematic increase from year to year.

Our system of state-financed universal free education is firmly guaranteed by the popular policy of our Party and state which stint nothing for the education of the rising generation and the training of native cadres and by the evergrowing independent national economy.

With the development of education work and the consolidation of the economic foundations of the country, the state should build up educational institutions and facilities better, supply all students with textbooks and school things free of charge and bear even the expenses of the students for their collective life in hostels.