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A number of ongoing programmes providing the development of the education field of the country have been implementing with the great attention and concern of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. As a result of these programmes, the educational structure has been modernised, and equal conditions for students have been created. Moreover, solid steps have been taken to improve the quality and sustainability of education.

Over the period from 2004 to 2011, 543665.1 thousand AZN were allocated from the state budget to the Capital Construction Department of the Ministry of Education to implement construction and refurbishment works. At the expense of allocated funds, there were built 353 new schools for 121864 pupils, 11 new kindergartens for 1270 children, one vocational education centre, and extra buildings at 18184 schools for 49880 pupils. Moreover, 7176 schools, 50 kindergartens and nine vocational schools have been refurbished. Due to the measures implemented in the school construction field, the percentage of two-shift schools has decreased from 73 to 44%; the number of pupils studying at the second shift has reduced from 34.5 to 21%.

However, it was revealed that some flaws were admitted in the construction and refurbishment of the schools. Thus, as a result of joint investigation by the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan and relevant government agencies, some flaws have been revealed at 77 schools of Baku. The General Prosecutor's Office has presented a report to the Ministry of Education on "Elimination of law violations revealed at the construction and refurbishment of the general education establishments."

The report has been discussed with the representatives of the management of Anti-Corruption Department of the General Prosecutor's Office and relevant departments of the Ministry of Education. During the discussions, there were underlined that all flaws revealed at the construction and refurbishment works of 77 schools of Baku have been eliminated over the past period of time.

Based on the report given by the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Education applied serious punitive measures against a number of officials, who have committed law violation in the construction and refurbishment fields. Moreover, the Director of Capital Construction Department of the Ministry of Education and number of senior employees of the Department were released from their positions for the admitted flaws. Several employees of the Ministry responsible for this field, and head of institutions have been given a serious warning.

Furthermore, the relevant structures, local education authorities and education institutions have received relevant assignments to organise and conduct tenders for the construction and refurbishment of general education schools according to the law, improve the law providing the control over the construction and refurbishment works, and acceptance of construction and refurbishment works into service, develop a mechanism for the implementation of works by skilled specialists, and increase transparency of this process by engaging school parents committees and parent teachers associations.

**PRESS SERVICE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**