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Speaking at the meeting, Education Minister and Chair of Organizing Committee for Best Secondary School and Best Teacher competitions, Misir Mardanov talked about the importance of competitions. Noting they are a great opportunity to create healthy competition between schools and teachers, and be creative the Minister wished the Organizing Committee success in its activity. According to him, competitions have been held in the country for six years within the Executive Orders of President Ilham Aliyev on Establishing Best Secondary School and Best Teacher Awards of 4 September 2007.

The Minister gave a presentation on the first stage of competitions and results of reviewed documents submitted by contestants.

According to the Minister, 132 schools from different regions and cities of the country submitted documents to take part in the Best Secondary School competition in 2013. Last year, their number was 151 schools. He noted that, 21 of 132 schools became the winners of competition held in the 2007/2008 academic year, and 2 won the competition in the 2008/2009 academic year.

The Minister added that 103 schools received the relevant scores have passed to the second stage of the competition. He also noted that the presentation stage for school directors will begin on 1 March.

Noting 481 teachers (464 teachers in 2012) submitted documents to participate in the Best Teacher competition in 2013, the Minister said that 477 documents out of 481 were reviewed and assessed. According to him, 227 of 477 teachers are the winners of competition held in the 2007/2008 academic year.

A majority of participants are primary school (44), English language (32) and Azeri language and literature (23) teachers. According to the Minister, 201 teachers out of 477 have passed to the second stage of competition. He also gave information on regions presented by teachers that will continue their participation in the competition.

Noting the second stage of the competition will begin on March 11, the Minister listed schools where exemplary lessons for competitors will be organized. He gave his recommendations for the effective organization of Expert Commissions' activity that will assess the lessons and noted that the instruction-related meetings for experts and school directors will be held separately.

Next, meeting attendees exchanged views on issues regarding the conduction of competitions.