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Tk 1054cr plan for pry edu undertaken in Fourth Plan

an OBSERVER report

Government has undertaken a scheme to be implemented at an estimated cost of Taka 1054 crore for the development of primary education in the country during the next Fourth Five-Year Plan commencing from July 1 next. Out of the total cost, about Taka 850 crore will be made available to Bangladesh by IDA, ADB, CIDA, UNDP, DGIs and UNICEF as grants and loan.

The main objective of the project is to reduce the rate of illiteracy among the population which has been calculated at about 80 per cent. According to an estimate, nearly 50 lakh children between the age groups of six and 11 years now remain out of the primary education facilities in the country.

About 12,000 classrooms in the rural areas and 200 satellite schools in 10 upazilas will be established under the scheme. The satellite schools will be meant exclusively for the students of class one and class two.

Compulsory primary education was first introduced in the country some 60 years back. The roll strength of both boys and girls in the primary schools of the country is about 1.26 crore; this figure includes both public and private schools.

Primary schools both in the metropolitan and rural areas suffer from poor maintenance, insanitation and absence of safe drinking water.

1,700 new classrooms

It is envisaged in the Fourth Five-Year Plan that 830 classrooms will be built in urban areas while another 870 classrooms (low cost) will be constructed in four metropolitan

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