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## Primary schools in Kishoreganj facing manifold problems

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Jan. 20.—Most of the government and non-government primary schools in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj district have been facing manifold problems including shortage of teachers, accommodation, lack of necessary appliances, paucity of pure drinking water and irregular payment of salary.

According to District Primary Education Department, there are 808 government, 357 registered and 124 unregistered primary schools in the district. The total number of the students in these schools was 3,52,786 during the last academic year.

As many as 83 posts of primary teachers including 24 headmasters have been lying vacant for a long time.

Most of the non-government schools established at the private initiative have not yet been given government recognition although these institutions have many students and other requisite facilities. Some of the schools were set up before the Liberation War and have been running in a deplorable condition.

Due to fund constraints, payment of salary of teachers remains irregular. As a result, many teachers have left their respective institutions in utter disappointments.

On the other hand, the government schools have been facing problems hampering the execution of the Universal Primary Education Programme. Most of the schools have no sufficient number of benches. As a result, students are to sit on the bricks or mats. The supply of other appliances including chalk, blackboard and duster is insufficient.

Ninety per cent of the schools have no field. These schools have no urinals. Teachers of some of the schools did not discharge their duty regularly as alleged by the guardians.

The primary schools damaged in the floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been repaired.