

## Education of children hampered, guardians worried

# Primary students yet to get text-books

From Our Correspondent

PANCHAGARH, Mar 5:—More than 52,000 students of the primary schools of the district are yet to get text-books although two months of the academic year have already passed.

There are 310 Government and about 400 registered non-government primary schools in the district. About one lakh sets of book were allocated for free distribution among 1,48,188 students of these schools. But 65 per cent books have been distributed among the students so far while the rest did not get the books. Over 52,000 students of these primary schools were deprived of getting new books.

Besides these, a large number of students of Class three and Class four received only 50 per cent new books and 50 per cent old books from the school authorities, following short supply of new books.

There are allegations that most of these old books distributed among the students are partially damaged and torn out. The students with these torn and damaged books have been facing inconveniences to prosecute their study. It is alleged that due to short supply of books the Compulsory Primary Education programme will be hampered.

The guardians of the students expressed deep concern over the critical situation in primary education of the district. They demanded immediate supply of requisite quantity of books to promote primary education in the district.

On the other hand, the students of Class VI and Class IX have been facing acute problems with the start of new academic year due to non-availability of text-books in the local markets.

The guardians said that the students are gradually losing their interest as the new academic session began without the text-books. The Board supplied only English textbook for class six in the last week of January to the bookshops of the markets.

The traders informed this Correspondent that the other text-books are yet to be published. They demanded proper distribution system of text-books so that the students can get the same at fixed price.

### Maulvibazar

Our Maulvibazar Correspondent reports: The fate of over 61,000 students of 1021 government and non-government registered and unregistered primary schools of Maulvibazar district is uncertain as text-books have not yet been distributed among them. There are 2,21,256 primary students in the district.

It is gathered from official source that 1,60,050 students will be given new text books this year while remaining 61,206 students may get old books to be collected from last year students.

The collection of old books from last year students is uncertain as it is not sure to get those books in good condition.

After this month (March) half of

the students will get new books and the remaining half will go without books, it is apprehended.

The fate of the students who will not get either new or old books is hanging in the balance as concern books are not available in the local markets.

The guardians of the students expressed deep concern over the critical situation.

### Rajbari :

Our Rajbari Correspondent reports: Not a single copy of book has been distributed among the students of primary schools although two months of the season have already passed. The fate of two lakh primary students is uncertain.

Out of 439 primary schools in the district 263 are government, 143 registered (non-govt) and 28 unregistered schools.

Besides the absence of tubewells, bad condition of toilets and shortage of educational equipment have created much problems for the students of the government primary schools of the district hampering the Compulsory Primary Education Programme.

Tubewells in many government primary schools are out of order since long. As a result students and teachers suffer a lot for want of pure drinking water.

The toilets which were constructed long ago are now in a deplorable condition.

### Netrakona

Our Netrakona Correspondent writes: The execution of the Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP) is being hampered in ten thanas of Netrakona district.

There are 634 government primary schools, 444 registered primary schools, 144 non-registered primary schools, 205 Ebtiday Madrasha, 42 high Madrasha attached primary schools, 52 community schools, 8 satellite schools and 14 kindergarten which are inadequate to meet the demand of students.

The number of children between the age groups of six and ten in the district is 3,38,418 of whom 2,93,417 have been enrolled in different primary schools while the rest did not get admission in the schools last year. The primary schools of the district have been facing shortage of teachers.

### Narail

Our Narail Correspondent adds: The number of children eligible to attend primary schools, has decreased both in the rural and urban areas of the district.

The children of poverty stricken families who got themselves admitted into the government primary schools ask yet to get new books supplied by the Bangladesh School Text-Book Board free of cost.

According to a survey conducted by NGO many students of six to ten years age group of different government and registered primary schools of the three thanas of the district left

the schools.

The day-labourers, share-crapers, rickshawpullers, masons and factory labourers sent their boys to hotels and restaurants and auto-mobile workshops to earn their bread. The landless and marginal farmers have to maintain a big family consisting six to ten members with their little income. It is a dream for them to send their children to school.

### Satkhira

Our Satkhira Correspondent states: Construction of 255 non-government secondary schools is going in four districts of Khulna Division. The Facilities Department of the Education Ministry is executing the projects at a cost of Tk 23 crore. A total of 35 schools has been set up in Magura and 98 in Jhenidah, 29 in Narail and 93 in Jessore district.

One completion of construction of the schools about one lakh and fifty thousands students will get better educational facilities.

### Noakhali

Our Noakhali Correspondent adds: The primary school students of the district have been facing problems due to shortage of teachers. As a result students are deprived of proper education.

The shortage of teachers is acute in these schools situated in remotest areas. In many schools only two or three teachers teach the students. The Compulsory Primary Education Programme in remote areas is being hampered for want of adequate number of teachers.

The teachers are interested to stay in Municipal and thana headquarters areas it is alleged. They show less interest to serve in rural areas.

Private tuition on commercial basis in the district and thana headquarters is hampering the mental development of the students.

Students from the middle and poor families are the worst sufferers as they cannot afford to engage a private tutor. Science students alleged that if this impossible to get better results in the examination without the help of the private tutors.