

Compulsory Pry Edn in Sylhet Division under disarray

From Our Correspondent

SRIMANGAL, June 21:—The overall situation of primary education in Sylhet division has come to a stagnant position as the scarcity of primary school teachers has become more acute in 4 districts of Sylhet division. At the same time an Education Officer and Assistant Education Officers are also a few in number in the division. As a result compulsory Primary Education programme is seriously hampered.

It is learnt that the problem has become acute due to slow appointment process and absence of teachers and for going abroad. For the last 5 years these are happening and the local educationist are worried over the situation.

According to the Directorate of Primary and Mass Education in 4 districts of Sylhet division namely Sylhet sadar, Sunamganj, Habiganj and Moulvibazar district there are 348 primary school. Of these, more than 1000 schools have severe shortage of teachers. Some are on the verge of closure due to teachers shortage.

The sources further informed the shortage of assistant teachers are mostly acute. The vacant posts of primary teachers in four districts in Sylhet division now are 1,695. Of these 509 are in

Sylhet, 517 in Sunamganj, 417 in Habiganj and 252 in Moulvibazar.

The post of Head Master in 119 Primary Schools are vacant. These posts of head teachers are remaining vacant for last 4 years. Besides 35 upazila Education Office only 8 officers are working. Out of 187 Assistant Education Officers 63 are vacant since last 6-7 years. For this reason, inspection of schools hardly could be done. Of the District Education Officers two are run in Sylhet and Moulvibazar by in-charges.

Many young males and females folks of this region left this job due to poor pay. Many have left for abroad. Sylhet Office of Primary and Mass Education informed that due to going abroad processing is on for declaration of 16 teachers post vacant. It is observed that many primary school teachers after going to London and other foreign countries sent letters to District Education Officer that they would not work further. In Sylhet 18 such incidents have happened.

It is also learnt that Taimus Ali Assistant Teacher of Tengra Government Primary School under Biswanath upazila is re-

maining absent since December 2002. Musheda Begum Assistant Teacher, Lalargaon Government Primary School of Sylhet upazila is absent for last 3 years. Badruzzaman Headmaster of Al-Imdad Government School of Biswanath is absent for last 11 months. The list is quite big in all four districts. This absentee teachers did not join even after repeated notice.

Sirajul Islam, Deputy Director of Primary and Mass education expressed his grave concern over the situation. If new teachers are not recruited, and Officers are not posted the situation will be bad, he added.