

## 10,000 teachers to be employed during FFYP

At least 10 thousand teachers, most of them women will be employed in primary schools during the Fourth Five Year Plan under General Education Project (GEP), reports BSS.

The GEP, estimated to cost over Taka eleven hundred crore, is the single largest foreign aided project in Bangladesh. The Project, already underway, has eight components five of which have already been approved by the government, a function was told in Dhaka on Sunday.

Education Secretary A.N.M. Eusuf speaking to reporters at the formal opening of the project coordination unit of the GEP at Malibagh Chowdhury Para, said for removing illiteracy from the society. The project (GEP) was aimed at increasing equitable access to primary and secondary schooling and also improving quality of education at the primary and secondary levels.

Besides the Government, Mr. Eusuf mentioned, a number of international organizations like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, SIDA, UNDP, UNICEF and NORAD are participating in the project. Development of primary education in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna

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## 10,000

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Divisions and development of primary education in the Chittagong Division are the major components in the GEP which entail over 90 per cent of the total expenditure.

Replying to a question, the Education Secretary said, while physical facilities will need 42 per cent of the total fund, text books and training aids will require 30 per cent of the allocation. Mr. Eusuf said Government plans to raise the percentage of women teachers in primary schools to 60 per cent in course of time. At present the ratio stands at bare 18 per cent, he added.

The Education Secretary informed that during the project period 10,000 class rooms would be reconstructed and 12,000 new class rooms built. During this period 200 low cost satellite schools in 10 upazilas including stipends to satellite school instructors will be taken up as a pilot project, he added.

Referring to textbook development, the Education Secretary said a specific programme will be taken up to improve and Text Books (NCTB), training of NCTB staff and the study on the re-use of primary textbooks.

Representatives of donors and senior officials of the Education Ministry were present on the occasion.