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22,500 more primary schools within 5 yrs

DHAKA, Nov. 11 (BSS) : Advisor to the President on compulsory primary education Mansur Ali Sarkar today said 22,500 primary schools would be set up during the next five years aimed at raising the literacy rate to 50 per cent from the present rate of 29.10 per cent by 1995.

For any sustainable development in science and technology basic education was a must, he told BSS in an interview.

Mr. Mansur Ali said 1.52 crore children between the age group of 6-10 years would be enrolled afresh in primary schools on the first year of compulsory education beginning January one next year. Of these, 1.14 crore children would come up for enrolment of their own while the rest 38 lakh children had to be brought into schools through various steps.

The advisor said we have to eliminate the present ratio of dropout which is four out of every five

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students, for attaining target of literacy rate. For this, he said, we have to take measures for keeping the children enrolled in classes one to five. In fact, he said, 65.50 of our total allocation for primary education go waste due to such huge ratio of dropout at the primary level.

Mr. Mansur Ali, who led a two-member delegation to the recently meeting held in Bangkok of the Association for Science and Cooperation in Asia (ASCA), said Bangladesh role was appreciated and some of the proposals put forward by it had been adopted.

He said the 12th meeting of ASCA would be held in Australia some time in 1992.