

Crash programme on mass literacy gets momentum

Ninety-seven thousand seven hundred and fifty-five squads, so far formed, have been engaged in 199 thanas to impart functional education under the crash programme on mass literacy, the second phase of the revolution.

A spokesman of the Education Ministry told ESS on Saturday that two lakh and fifty thousand teachers had already been imparted training since the programme was launched on February 21 coinciding with the historic language movement as a mark of respect to the martyrs who had laid down their lives to establish Bengali as a state language in 1952.

Nearly seven lakh primers and training materials like specially written 'Lekha Por', 'Baroder Boi', 'Barna Porichay' and 'Kajer Kotha' have so far been distributed. Out of which about 50 lakh copies have already reached the trainees of the age group 11 — 45 years in different parts of the country, the spokesman said.

He hoped that by December 31, distribution of one crore primers and training materials would be completed.

Commenting on the over-all progress of the programme, Dr. Muhammad Selim, Education Adviser, Ministry of Education, said it is a good beginning and people, particularly, the women are showing unexpected enthusiasm throughout the country.

With the target of imparting functional literacy to one crore people, at least 150 people per village, efforts are now under way with a revolutionary zeal to bring the entire country under the crash programme.

Regarding the training, Dr. Selim hoped that four lakh teachers and trainers would be trained within the stipulated time and said, "we are giving thought over an idea for re-training the already trained personnel on the problems if any, in the field of action."

On the introduction of mass education programme in secondary and higher secondary levels, Dr. Selim said that all formalities in this regard had been completed and the students would participate in the programme as a part of their curricular requirements. Fifty marks will be allotted in S.S.C.

final examination to the subject of mass literacy.

PRIMARY TEACHERS

Another message adds: Nearly 1,66,700 primary school teachers will be oriented on the new curricula and syllabi under a massive training programme from May 5.

Sponsored by the Education Directorates with the financial assistance of the UNICEF, the training programme will be completed in four phases.

The training programme will be inaugurated by Mr. Abdul Baten, Minister of State for Education, at Bangladesh Education Extension and Research Institute (BEERI), where 202 and two trainer teacher will be imparted training under the first phase.

In the second phase of the training 36,700 head teachers of primary schools will be oriented at 47 primary Teachers Institutes (PTI) in the country from June 10 to 28.

Under the third phase, which will begin from August 21 to conclude on September 18, 555 field level supervisors like District Education Officers, District Inspector of Schools, Sub-Divisional Education Officers and Thana Education Officers will be oriented at the Academy for Fundamental Education, Myer Singh.

The last phase of the programme will begin on September 20 to conclude on October 11 to orient 1,30,000 primary teachers at respective school level.

The training programme, first of its kind in Bangladesh is expected to be of great help to the primary school teachers in the light of the newly introduced text books at the primary level.