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Enrolment up, drop-out down in pry schools

By A Staff Reporter

The enrolment in primary schools in the country has increased by more than 13 per cent in last four years. According to official sources, more than 71 per cent of the school-age children are now enrolled in country's 44,681 primary schools. The percentage was 58 in 1985 and it rose to 69 in 1987 and 70 in 1988.

Official statistics showed that the enrolment figure was 1.12 crore for primary schools last year and it increased to 1.14 crore this year.

The government also succeeded in reducing the rate of drop-out in primary schools. The drop-out rate was reduced to 11.09 per cent in 1988 against the rate at 13.18 in 1987 and 22 per cent in 1985.

The success in increasing the rate of enrolment and reducing the rate of drop-out was an outcome of the Universal Primary Education programme (UPE) which was

launched during the Second Five-Year Plan.

The UPE programme was administered by the Directorate of Primary Education for the expansion and improvement of primary education reducing drop-out rate and strengthening of educational management.

Under the UPE project, Government constructed 2,255 rural primary schools, 261 town schools and 133 metropolitan city schools by the end of 1988. Latrines and tube-wells were also set up at new school premises.

Besides, Government continues supplying furniture and text books for primary schools under the UPE programme.

The Primary Directorate also recruited additional teachers for the nationalised schools and conducted cluster training programmes for the teachers to improve the quality of education.

The UPE is scheduled to continue till the year 2000. All the school-age children would be brought in primary schools by the end of the century, the authorities hope.