

Help govt ensure edn for all by 2000

President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Saturday called upon all to extend their allout cooperation to the government to ensure education for all, by the year 2000, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a national conference organised by Bangladesh Literacy Society marking its 16th foundation ceremony at the Institute of Engineers in Dhaka the President said that the prime responsibility before the nation at the moment was to spread the light of education to the vast majority of unlettered people through massive literacy drives.

Presided over by the Chairman of the society, Dr Khondakar Bazzul Huq the conference was addressed, among others, by the Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoja Chowdhury, Education Minister Jamir uddin Sircar, UNICEF Representative in Dhaka, Cole P Dodge, the UNDP Representative Winston Temple, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Prof Shamsul Huq and Secretary General of the Samity Prof Mohammad Osman Gani.

The President identified illiteracy as one of the major problems being faced by the nation and said the prevailing population explosion poverty, diseases and backwardness in the society were the result of the curse of illiteracy.

He pointed out that education was the precondition of democracy since it created the awareness among the people about the society.

President Biswas said that the people, after a long struggle and sacrifices, had established democracy in the country. The present democratic government is determined to meet the five basic needs of the people food, clothing, shelter, health and education, he added.

Explaining the importance of education, the President said all must put in concerted efforts to expand the education facilities and make the literacy for all programme a success.

The President recalled that the

Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had launched the programme to spread mass literacy and combat population explosion in 1980, simultaneously. But the last government had abandoned the welfare oriented programme for mass literacy.

He said that the present government once again was going to launch the mass-literacy programme. He said the compulsory primary education would be introduced in the country from January, 1992.

For this, the President pleaded for taking all preparations.

President Biswas said that the country's primary schools, mak-tabs madrasas and temples could play an important role in spreading literacy in the country. Active involvement of the teachers in these institutions in the mass literacy programme could pay great dividends.

In this connection, the President also underlined the important role of the educated society, voluntary institutions and able persons.

He appreciated the endeavours of the Bangladesh Literacy Society for its role in spreading the light of education and hoped that it would continue its efforts in implementing the government's programme of mass-literacy.

B. CHOWDHURY

The Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoja Chowdhury in his speech hoped to eradicate the curse of illiteracy within the next five years. About four lakh people have volunteered to accomplish the gigantic task collectively, he stated.

Prof Chowdhury said that the Gram Sarkars would be given the responsibility of the task of mass literacy at the village level with a target plan giving priority to female education.

Education Minister Jamir Uddin Sircar said that the UNICEF had provided necessary funds to set up schools in each upazila. He said local youths would be engaged in the task of increasing literacy rate in each upazilas.

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