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Tk 73.35 cr for primary education development outlay 07 JUL 1985

By A Staff Reporter

The development outlay in primary education during the current fiscal year (1985-86) is estimated at Taka 73.35 crore. This is 44.42 per cent of the total Taka 165.12 crore estimated development expenditure in the education sector during the year.

The Annual Development Programme (ADP) has it that of the total development outlay in primary education for the year, Taka 70.76 crore is in two projects for universalisation of primary education.

Taka 1.60 crore has been earmarked for development of facilities at the 49 Primary Training Institutes (PTIs) and Taka one crore for starting the second phase of mass education programme.

Last year (1984-85), Taka 63.62 was spent under the development head of primary education and it comprised about 59 per cent of the total development outlay of Taka 107.90 crore for the education sector. In that year Taka one crore was earmarked for the PTIs and Taka 15 lakh for mass education.

The Universal Primary Education (national) Project which has been made a core project is estimated to get Taka 46 crore under development head during the current year. The IDA assisted Universal Primary Education project would get Taka 24.76 crore, according to the ADP. Both the projects involve Taka 49.30 crore expenditure in foreign currency.

It is to be mentioned here that achievement of universal free primary education was one of the targets of the Second Five-Year Plan which ended in June 30 last. The implementation of the plan, however, was delayed due to various reasons, and the IDA assisted project is now scheduled to be completed by June 1986. The core UPE project has been revised to be implemented by the year 1990. The objectives are: to bring 70 per cent of primary school age group (6 to 10 years) children to schools, to halt drop-out from primary schools, to raise the standard of education at the level, to raise the number of girl students, and to lower the per head cost of education.

The project activities include renovation of school buildings and houses and expansion of their physical facilities, training of teachers and supply of free books to students. Last year free text books were distributed to students upto Class IV and students of Class V were given books at half the prices.

The second phase of mass education programme was suspended since 1982-83. However, to meet the expenses incurred earlier Taka 10 lakh was spent in 1983-84 and Taka 15 lakh in 1984-85.

The development outlays for other sub-sectors in the education section, according to the ADP, are: secondary and higher education (excepting universities) Taka 45.03 crore, technical education Taka 24.61 crore and university education Taka 10.66 crore among others.