

Free uniforms, shoes for govt primary school students likely from August

Bobby Hajjaj says the government aims to reach around 1.07 crore students across the country in phases

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The government aims to begin distributing free uniforms and shoes to government primary school students by August this year, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Bobby Hajjaj said today.

He said the government has taken a plan to provide uniforms and shoes in phases to around 1.07 crore students across the country.



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As part of the government's 180-day programme, a pilot project is being implemented at the primary level to assess the effectiveness of distributing quality uniforms and shoes to students, he said.

Bobby made the remarks at a meeting with representatives of leading footwear brands at the ministry's conference room.

The state minister said leading organisations in the country's ready-made garment sector have already responded positively to the initiative.

With their support, more than four lakh uniforms are becoming available for the pilot project. The government expects similar cooperation from the country's footwear companies, he added.

Bobby said preliminary discussions were held on providing white velcro shoes, without laces, to class 1 students under the pilot phase. As most class 1 students are around six years old, the ministry sought opinions from the companies on suitable sizes, size variations, boys' and girls' requirements, and the number of shoes they can supply.

The state minister urged the companies concerned to send detailed information to the ministry on possible donations, supply timelines, and production cost structures. He said the government would develop a long-term partnership with the industry for large-scale shoe supply in the future.

He said the government wants to show visible progress in the pilot programme by August. The target is to start implementing the initiative before the government completes its first six months.

Primary and mass education secretary and senior officials of footwear companies were present at the meeting.