

Literacy drive gains momentum in Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA Oct 14:—The Mass Literacy campaign in the district goes ahead and the inclusion of some new Programmes by the District Administration has added greater momentum to the drive and the progress that has been made so far is stated to be encouraging according to an official source.

When contacted Mr. Yahia Chawdhury A.D.C. (Education) Comilla stated that one village in each Union has been brought under Sarathi Prokalpa (Pilot Project) and the Gram Sarkars of those respective villages have been entrusted with the eradication of illiteracy from those Sarathi Prokalpa Villages. Gram Sarkars will work under the direct supervision of the Circle Officer (Dev.) Thana Education Officer and the UP Chairmen. The S.D.O's concerned and the A.D.C. (Education) would visit such Pilot Projects frequently. These Pilot Projects are in addition to the normal activities aiming at eradication of illiteracy in the district.

For management of the Pilot Projects some principles and guidelines have been set up which include setting up of Literacy Centres in village under Pilot Projects to be run by the respective Swanirvar Gram-Sarkars. The Gram-Sarker Prodhans and the members-in-charge of education will be directly responsible for the better functioning of such centres. The Gram-Sarkars will form Literacy Squads with enthusiastic literate unemployed

ed youths, retired government officers members of Voluntary Organisations and School teachers. The respective Gram-Sarkars of the villages taken under Pilot Projects would prepare a list of illiterate persons and them to attend. Importance is being attached to the sincere participation of people from all walks of life, especially the youths. This would accelerate the activities with this end in view the District Administration is learnt to have been preparing to involve the Imams of the Mosques, teachers of Forkania Madrasahs and other religious leaders for motivation of the masses. The use of the Krishi Shamobaya Samities, village level Co-operative Organisations as institutions to pursue the Mass Literacy drive is also being contemplated it was stated by the A.D.C. (Education) Comilla.

Three hundred and fifty six villages have been taken under Pilot-Project and Literacy Centres have already been set up there. Out of about 13.91 lakh illiterate persons in the district about 1,75,375 persons including 55,336 females have learnt to read and write so far. About 4,112 villages including 356 villages under Sarathi Prokalpa have so far been brought under the programme against a total number of 6,110 villages in the district according to an official source. About 6,480 Mass Literacy Squads comprising about 18,027 students, teachers, volunteers as members have been formed in those villages to pursue the programme. Another about

66 Voluntary Organisations are participating in the Programme, the source added.

The source further added that about 5,87,200 books had been distributed free of cost among the learners and another about 15,000 books are at stock for distribution. About 13,866 persons in the District Thana and Union levels had been imparted training to run the Mass Literacy Centres.