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Mass literacy drive forging ahead in Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Nov. 21.—The mass literacy campaign in the district is forging ahead and some pragmatic steps adopted by the district administration added more speed to the programme.

Mr. Yahia Chowdhury, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education) when contacted told this correspondent that an effective motivational campaign towards the necessity of literacy was an urgent need to achieve success in winning out the giant problem of illiteracy. So to ensure the eradication of illiteracy the district administration has drawn up a comprehensive motivational programme to be carried out along with the action programme already going in the district.

As the rural population can not realise the need of literacy campaign until they were

convinced that literacy was a compulsory part of the religion. For that purpose the district administration has drawn up a programme to involve the Imams of the mosques to inspire people that literacy constitutes a compulsory part of the religion and also to use the mosques, Farkania Madrasa etc. as non-formal literacy centres.

Besides, inclusion of Gram Sankars in the mass literacy campaign in their own villages under the supervision and grammes chalked out by the district administration will surely institutionalise the responsibility of the movement, the A.D.C added.

According to an official source a total of about 1,90,700 illiterate persons including 55,700 women have so far been taught to read and write and another about 4,53 lakhs are now being taught in the literacy centres out of a total number of illiterate persons of about 13.91 lakhs in the district. About 4112 villages out of a total of 6110 villages in the district have so far been brought under the programme and 6,480 mass literacy squads comprising about 18,827 male and female students, teachers volunteers as members have been formed in those villages to pursue the programme. Another about 86 voluntary organisations had been participating in the programme, the source added.

The source further added that about six lakhs of books had been distributed free of cost among the learners. Moreover, about 14,000 persons have been imparted training as teachers at district, thana and union level to be utilised in the programme.