

Curse of illiteracy to be eradicated within next 10 years

Staff Reporter

The present government is working hard to achieve its planned goal to eradicate the country from the curse of illiteracy within next ten years.

To this end, according to official sources, inspection and monitoring measures have been strengthened for the primary education these resulted in the increase in enrolment of students to an encouraging figure of 95 per cent.

Side by side, social movement to motivate the parents to send their children to the schools is being patronised and encouraged. Tuition fees have been waived and text books are being supplied free of cost.

The present government has given priority to the education sector to make it as a tool to transform the growing population into productive manpower and poverty alleviation. Accordingly, expansion and development programmes have been taken for compulsory primary education (1-5 grade), secondary (6-12 group) and higher education.

A programme to construct 1529 schools was implemented in 1996-97, these schools were constructed at places where no schools did exist in the past. At the same time, reconstruction and repair of the existing schools is going on. During the same financial year, 1061 satellite schools were opened for Grade 1 and 2 with the assistance of the public.

With the concerted efforts made by the government the number of Primary Schools in the country rose to a total of 62,768 including 37,710 government and 25,058 non-government in 1996. The total of primary schools was 47,241 in 1990 of which 37,655 was government schools, according to official statistics.

Meanwhile, the present government has taken up various programmes to bring reforms in the education sector to make it modern and suitable for an independent and sovereign country, which achieved its independence through a war.

As a part of these programmes, the correct history of the War of Independence has been included in the text books.