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General Education Plan from July

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The government is going to launch a Taka one-thousand crore 5-year General Education Programme (GEP) with greater emphasis on primary education from July next.

According to Education Ministry sources, the authorities have already finalized the project as a perspective plan for the Universal Primary Education project (UPE).

The government had earlier taken up the Universal Primary Education project to bring all primary school-age children to schools by the year 2000.

The UPE had been launched in 1980 and its second phase is likely to be completed by June this year.

Meanwhile, a Primary Education (Compulsory) Bill has

been passed by the Parliament to achieve 100 per cent enrolment of the children in primary schools.

Under the proposed General Education Programme (GEP), the government will spend about Taka 900 crore for primary education.

The programme scheduled for the period between 1990 and 1995 would make provision for population education at the school level, scholarships for female students at secondary level, reform of secondary examination and improvement supervision at the secondary level.

Besides, step would be taken in the field of curriculum development, text book publication and improvement of the management of the Education

Information System.

The General Education Programme will be carried out under IDA and ADB loans. Foreign donor agencies like UNICEF, SIDA, UNDP and

the Netherlands government have signed agreements to provide grants for the programme, according to Education Ministry sources.

The programme is divided into two parts. A part of the programme will cover Chittagong division under ADB loan and three remaining divisions will be covered under IDA loan.

About 40 per cent of the budget will be spent on civil works, 16 per cent on text book printing and distribution, and another 16 per cent on manpower, the sources said.

The civil works will include construction of 19 thousand class rooms for rural primary schools, 12 thousand class rooms for low-cost schools and about 800 class rooms for

Two hundred school buildings will also be constructed, two each in 100 selected upazila under the programme.

The government also has a plan to establish education complexes at all the district headquarters under the programme. Beside new constructions, 4,000 primary schools and 53 Primary Teachers' Training Institutes (PTIs) will be reconstructed or renovated.

Non-government organisations (NGOs) will also receive an allocation of about Taka 27 crore to strengthen non-formal education.