

Accommodation problem, teacher shortage hit primary education

From Our Correspondent

RAJBARI, Nov. 22.—The Compulsory Primary Education Programme has been facing multifarious problems in four thanas of the district affecting the normal academic atmosphere.

The dilapidated condition of most of the primary school buildings, inadequate furniture and shortage of teachers are the main causes for hampering the education of children of the district.

High price of paper and other educational appliances, poverty and social factors are also hampering the education of children.

The primary schools damaged in floods, storms, cyclones and other natural calamities during the last few years have not yet been repaired.

Accommodation problem prevails in almost all the schools. In many schools students take lessons standing for want of benches. Shortage of chairs, tables and almirahs is also hindering education.

Shortage of teachers is acute in many schools, specially schools in rural areas where normal education of children is being hampered. As many as 59 posts of teachers including 34 posts of headmaster are lying vacant in the district.

23,000 drop-outs

A recent survey carried out by the District Primary Education office

shows that the number of school-going children in the district is 1,34,603 of whom 1,10,803 have been enrolled in different primary schools in four thanas of the district and 23,800 boys and girls are not going to schools. Of the enrolled students, 23,284 have discontinued their study.

The thana-wise percentage of drop-outs is: 11 per cent in sadar thana, 30 per cent in Pangsa thana, 21 per cent in Baliakandi and 30 per cent in Goalundughat thana.

The quota of teachers in government primary schools in the district is not maintained properly. Some schools with a large number of students have been facing shortage of teachers while many schools with requisite number of students have excess teachers.

According to a survey, teachers attendance is satisfactory in the schools situated in the town or by the side of the highways or in a place connected with good roads with zila and thana headquarters.

The situation is reverse in the schools located in the remote areas with bad communication, where inspecting personnel hardly pay visit. In the later category of schools, teachers in mutual understanding remain absent showing their regular attendance in the registers. Late

arrival of teachers is another problem and routine is not maintained properly.

Teachers not methodical

Besides, teachers are not methodical to make the lesson interesting. About 80 per cent teachers impart lessons to the students ignoring the black-board work to the students because of their too much preoccupation with household work. As a result the students lose interest in study.

Absence of subjectwise recruitment of teachers is another factor responsible for the deterioration of the standard of education. There are many schools where madrasa degree holders are appointed as teachers who are not capable of teaching English, Bengali, Arithmetics, Social Science and General Science. As a result, the students are promoted to the next higher class with weak basic foundation.

Religious education

Religious education is now compulsory in the primary schools. But religious teachers are not recruited. Every Hindu teacher can take class in his religion does not know Arabic. Muslim students are deprived of religious education in many schools.

Almost all the primary schools have no playgrounds and proper sports facilities. The students are deprived of sports. There is no prac-

tice of extra-curricular activities in many schools. As a result, the talents of the students cannot be developed for building an all round career in their future life. In different competitions, they are found below the standard.

Drinking water crisis

Accommodation crisis prevails in almost all the schools but it is more acute in non-government primary schools which have been founded at the local initiative and did not get any financial support from the government.

Scarcity of drinking water has been prevailing in the educational institutions as most of the tubewells sunk in the schools are out of order.

Absence of proper sanitation in these educational institutions is another impediment. The pupils and teachers are to go to the nearby bushes or by the side of the canals in response to the call of nature causing pollution of the environment.

Thakurgaon

Our Thakurgaon correspondent writes: To implement the programmes of Compulsory Primary Education a 15 day programme was arranged by Primary Education Department at Thakurgaon thana.

In this connection processions, meetings and rallies and congregation of mothers were held at different places of Thakurgaon sadar thana. For the purpose of 198 govt. primary schools of Thakurgaon sadar thana have been divided into 10 clusters.

A programme of such a cluster was held recently at Gilabari Primary School where, among others 4000 mothers of the area attended. In the meeting, Thana Education Officer and Assistant Thana Education Officer requested the mothers to send their 6-year-old children to schools.

The chief guest of the meeting Md. Abdus Sattar, Chairman, Mohammadpur Union Parishad urged the mothers to send their children to schools.

A representative of the mothers spoke on the occasion and promised to send their children to schools. Such programmes were also held at Thakurgaon pourashava, Raipur, Kumarpur, Ruhea, Garea, Nargun, Old Thakurgaon, Akhanagar and Debipur.

Teacher shortage

It may be mentioned here that in Thakurgaon thana the number of school-going children is 68,000 of whom 60,000 are not interested to go to schools due to poverty, lack of guardians, economic situation of the schools, short

lack of proper education atmosphere. At present in Thakurgaon thana 62 per cent children are going to schools.

Though meetings, processions, rallies and publicity of the govt. the number of school-going children has increased but due to lack of facilities the number decreases within a short time. Proper atmosphere and facilities should be created to promote compulsory primary education in the country.

Chapai-Nawabganj

UNB report from Chapai-Nawabganj adds: The Gothil Government Primary School in Nachoi thana of the district is beset with multifarious problems due to shortage of classrooms, furniture and other appliances.

About 400 students of the school have been facing serious difficulties due to shortage of classrooms. The teachers are compelled to hold classes under the open sky. The kutcha classrooms of the school are also in bad condition and may collapse at any time.

There is no tubewell in the school premises and due to scarcity of pure water the students are forced to use contaminated pond water and various stomach ailments, break out.

Shortage of teachers is also hampering the education seriously. Guardians alleged that most of the teachers are not regular in taking classes as they remain busy with other purposes.

They urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps to ensure smooth education of the children.

Chuadanga

Our Chuadanga correspondent reports: Kulpala non-Government Primary School under Alamdanga thana is beset with a host of problems. This school was established in 1976. The roll strength of students is 300.

For want of class rooms, pupils of both classes sit in the same room. School has no sufficient number of hampering education of students. The furniture like chair, table and benches. The students sit on the floor and mat.

A small amount of pay is being paid to the teachers from local donation. Govt. grant has not yet been given to the school.

The primary school established 17 years ago has been facing acute financial problems.

Nawdays Panchia Govt Primary School under Alamdanga thana is beset with a host of problems.

The class rooms of the school have no doors and windows. The class rooms become dusty when the boys play there.

The latrine of the school has no roof and door. The latrine has become unfit for use due to growth of bush.

About 500 pupils of seven villages of the area attend the school.

The school lacks adequate number of benches. There is no boundary wall of the school.