

UPEP hit for want of facilities

Damaged schools not repaired, classes sit under open sky

From Our Correspondent

Chuadanga

NETRAKONA, Jan. 5.—The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) has been facing serious set-back in the district due to lack of accommodation, shortage of teachers and funds and other educational facilities.

The high prices of papers and other materials, poverty of guardians accompanied with other social factors are depriving the children of the opportunity to receive primary education.

The primary school buildings throughout the district damaged either partially or totally in the natural calamities during the last few years, have not yet been repaired or re-constructed.

Roofs of school building blown away during the storms and cyclone have not been repaired. Most of the schools are holding classes under the open sky. Many schools have no benches for students to sit.

The schools located in thana headquarters and pourasava areas having a large number of students are facing shortage of teachers.

According to Education Department, the total number of primary students in 10 thanas of the district is about 85,000 of whom only 20,000 get the facilities to read and write in 797 primary schools.

About 46 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time but no step has been taken to fill up the vacant posts.

The primary schools excepting a few have been facing accommodation problems. As a result, the students of many government primary schools have to sit either on bricks or on mats for want of requisite number of benches.

The condition of 171 non-government primary schools is miserable. These schools have been running without educational facilities. Most of the non-government primary schools are housed in thatched structures which may collapse at any time or may be blown away by the storm.

The non-government primary schools established at the local initiative are not getting the support of government although these institutions provide education to a large number of children.

Nationalisation of a non-government boys high schools and non-government girls high schools in Netrakona town is the need of the hour to meet the demand of students and guardians. The nationalisation will raise the standard of education.

The district town needs at least two more government high schools. Anjuman Govt. Model High School and Netrakona Government Girls High Schools can not meet the demand for students.

The present population of Netrakona town is about 5 lakh.

Our Chuadanga Correspondent reports: Khayerhuda Govt. Primary School under Jibannagar Thana has been limping with a host of problems.

The number of class rooms is inadequate hindering education of

large number pupils. The school has a roll strength of 700 students who are accommodated in four class rooms.

The school has no required number of benches, black-bords and lacks toilet facilities.

The school has been facing teacher's shortage. There are five teachers to teach 700 pupils.

Maulvibazar

UNB reports from Maulvibazar:—The progress of the Compulsory Primary Education Programme (CPEP) in the district is being hampered due to poverty of the people.

It may be mentioned that CPE programme was introduced in the Sadar thana of the district in the first phase in January 1992. The programme has already been launched in one thana of the 64 districts of the country and remaining thanas will be included in phases aiming at education for all by the year 2000 AD.

According to an official report,

the total number of children got admitted in primary schools in Maulvibazar Sadar thana stood at 35,036 in the last year. Of them about 10,000 failed to attend the classes due to poverty.

Instead of going to schools, the children seek work for livelihood. They are grazing cattle in the fields or engaged themselves in any petty work to eke out their living.

During the month of January and February of 1992, a total of 29679 students took admission in 167 government primary schools of sadar thana, but 5,357 did not turn up the schools.

On the other hand, most of the primary school houses in rural areas damaged by storms and floods in the last are yet to be repaired. Students have to attend classes having no benches.

Moreover, many of the schools are holding classes under the open sky and lacking drinking water supply facilities.