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## Pry schools lack educational facilities in Netrakona

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Feb 1: The Universal Primary Education Programme (UPEP) has been facing serious set-back in Netrakona district due to lack of accommodation, shortage of teachers and funds and such other educational facilities.

The high prices of white papers, slate, pencil etc, ever-increasing poverty of guardians accompanied with some other social factors are depriving the children of the opportunity to receive compulsory free primary education.

There are so many primary school buildings throughout Netrakona district damaged either partially or totally in the natural calamities during the last few years, have not yet been repaired. Most of the schools are holding classes under trees or in the open sky. Many of the schools have no benches for students to sit on.

The primary schools located in the thana headquarters of ten police stations and Netrakona and Mohangonj Pourashava areas having a large number of students are facing acute shortage of teachers.

According to the Education department sources, the total number of primary students in ten police stations of the district is more than 85,000 of whom only 20,000 get the facilities to read and write in 867 primary schools including 634 government primary schools.

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

Most of the primary schools have been facing accommodation problems. As a result, the students of so many Government primary schools have to sit on bricks or on pucca corridor for want of requisite number of benches.

The condition of 233 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 any moment or may be blown away by cyclonic storms.

The non-government primary schools, established at the local initiative are not getting the government support, although these institutions provide education to a large number of children in the rural areas of the district. These non-government, primary schools should be taken by the government without delay for the greater benefit of the rural children's compulsory free primary education in the district.

Nationalisation of non-government boys' and girls' high schools in Netrakona district headquarter is the crying need of the hour to meet the long felt demand of the students and guardians as a whole.

The existing Anjuman Govt. Model High School and Netrakona Government Girls High School is unable to meet the ever increasing demand of the students at all. The district town needs five more government high schools including two girls' high schools to cope with the situation. Thousands of students both boys and girls try their best to get themselves admitted into the existing government high schools but in vain for want of seats and accommodation.

The nationalisation of the existing non-government high schools will meet the long felt demand of the students and raise the standard of education in the district.

It may be mentioned here that the present population of Netrakona pourashava and its surrounding areas is more than five lakh.