

66 pc dropout at primary level yearly

Education Minister Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury told the Jatiya Sangsad Sunday that about one crore 15 lakh children get admission into the primary school every year in the country, reports BSS.

Replies to a question from Mr Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna) the Minister said the figure was about 78 per cent of the total school-going children.

He said the rate of dropout at the primary level every year was 66.06 per cent.

Dr Chowdhury said the reasons, among others, of the dropout were: the financial inability and illiteracy of the guardians and their lack of awareness of the im-

portance of education.

He said absence of congenial academic atmosphere and inadequacy in the infrastructural facilities were also responsible for the drop-out of students at the primary level.

Renovation, construction and repair of the primary schools and improvement in the tubewell and toilet facilities with the financial support from different donor countries were being made to check the dropout, he said.

The Education Minister informed the House that the government was also supplying various education implements including free text books to discourage

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dropouts.

He said all concerned officials including those at the field level are active to inspire the guardians. He also said there is a provision of appointing women teachers at the rate of 60 per cent at present in the teachers' recruitment rule.

Besides, he said the implementation of the compulsory primary education from January 1 next year is under process.

In reply to a supplementary, the Minister said establishment of the necessary infrastructure for compulsory primary education in the country is not possible in a short time. He said some funds have also been placed.

Terming the dropout of students at the primary level as a socio-political problem he said it has to be faced unitedly.

In reply to another supplementary, he said it was true that smooth supervision was not being made and the teachers in the primary schools are also not attending classes in time.

He said we all irrespective of party affiliations and opinion, would have to be conscious of our responsibility to find a solution to the problem.