

## Pry Edn facing various problems in Nilphamari

From Our Correspondent

NILPHAMARI, Jan 1:—The Compulsory Primary Education programme is faced with various problems in six upazilas of Nilphamari district.

About 226 posts of primary school teachers have been lying vacant for a long time in six upazilas of the district. About 43 posts of head masters and the 143 posts of assistant teachers have been lying vacant.

There are 988 primary schools in the district, of which 472 are government, 438 are non-government (registered) and rest 78 are run by NGOs.

About 7523 children of the district are denied primary education due to necessary education appliances and poverty of guardians.

A recent survey carried out by the District Primary Education office shows that the number of school-going children in the district is 2,75,013 of whom 2,67,490 study in 472 government, 438 non-government and 78 NGOs primary schools and 7523 are not going to schools.

A good number of children failed to enroll themselves in schools due to economic hardship of their guardians the survey said. High price of paper and other education appliances, poverty and other social factors are depriving the children of primary education.

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

A survey reveals that teachers attendance is satisfactory in the school situated by the side of the highway or at a place connected with good road with district and upazila head quarters. But the sit-

uation is reverse in the schools located in the remote areas with bad communication, where inspecting personnel hardly pay visit.

In the latter category of schools, teachers in mutual understanding remain absent for months together showing them on duty.

Teachers are not methodical and cordial to make the lesson interesting as they are busy with their household affairs or private coaching.

Accommodation crisis prevails in almost all the schools but it is acute in non-government primary schools which have been founded at the local initiatives and did not get any financial support from the government. Pupils sit on the kutchha floor.

Scarcity of drinking water in these educational institutions has been prevailing as most of the tubewells in the schools are

either out of order or their heads have been stolen away. The Public Health Engineering Department did not repair these tubewells despite repeated remainders.

Absence of proper sanitation in these educational institutions is another impediment. The pupils and teachers are to go nearby houses or the side of the canals in response to the call of nature. Cattle head, dogs and outsiders enter into the schools freely in absence of doors and widows. During the rainy season water trickles through the leakages of the roof of the buildings.

In absence of playground in 25 per cent of these schools students are denied of recreation, sports facilities are meager in all the secondary education institutions too.