

38

Fund constraint hampers education in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Sept. 21:— The standard of secondary education in Gopalganj district has deteriorated. There are about 100 government and non-government High Schools in five thanas of the district but these schools are beset with innumerable problems hampering the education of about 32,000 students.

According to a survey, qualified persons do not take up teaching in the non-government secondary schools as the salary of the teachers in these schools is poor. Even a good number of schools is unable to pay the 30 per cent of the salary of the teachers due to fund constraint.

Meanwhile, private coaching has become rampant throughout the district. The teachers are so engrossed with their private coaching that they can hardly give attention to their students in the classes. The schools do not prepare their question papers and erroneous question papers are bought from various commercial question sellers at cheap rate. The examination fee is collected from the students at a high rate, guardians alleged.

Classes are not held during the first three or four months of the academic year on the plea of non-availability of the government approved books. It is also observed that only 15 to 20 per cent of students

pass in all subjects and the rest are also promoted to the next higher classes. The authorities of most of the schools fail to ensure regular attendance of the students. A few schools have library but these are not functioning well although library fees are collected regularly. Guardians fear that if the concerned authorities do not take necessary action to solve these problems the standard of secondary education will further deteriorate.

On the other hand most of the government and non-government primary schools in five thanas of

Gopalganj district have been facing manifold problems hampering the implementation of the Universal Primary Education Programme. Moreover many schools damaged during the cyclones, floods and other natural calamities are yet to be repaired. In some schools children are attending their classes regularly.

It is also alleged that in some government primary schools there are more teachers than the requirement while other schools have no required number of teachers. Local leaders have urged the authorities to look into the matter and take immediate steps for ensuring better education of the children.

Welding shops of different residential areas of the Gopalganj town and other than headquarters of the district have been creating immense sufferings to the dwellers. Over 300 welding shops are being operated in five thanas in the district causing health hazards. Almost all the welding shops are established in an unplanned manner and occupied the roads and footpaths illegally hampering traffic movement greatly.

The sparkle and irritating sound from the welding shops are creating problems particularly to the children's eye-sight and hearing power.