

Eradication Of Illiteracy

Advancement of a nation depends greatly on the percentage of literacy of its members. This truth has inspired our policy makers to chalk out programmes for eradicating illiteracy from the land within the shortest possible time. Measures ranging from opening night schools for the adults in villages to distribution of text books of three R's free of cost among the illiterate masses have been taken. And care is being taken to make these books easy for the students of various ages, so that they should not find any difficulty in learning the three R's at the initial stage. Consequently, the number of such students is reportedly increasing. For example, about 2,25,000 illiterate people, both men and women, are being taught in the mass education centres in three subdivisions of Khulna district alone. The number of these students in the entire district has hitherto been estimated at 13,57,542 and a total of 17,315 personnel, including school teachers, students, unemployed youths, family planning assistants and social workers, are taking part to implement the programme. Besides, 17,203 teachers have been given training at dis-

trict, thana and union levels and a total of 6,600 literacy squads have been formed to combat illiteracy in this district. Seven voluntary organizations are reported to have spread their activities in this connection. Similar steps are also being taken in other parts of the country.

In fact, the rate of socio-economic development will be determined by expeditious and effective spread of education in the country. Our people have the talent and potentialities to tackle problems related to the socio-economic development. What is needed is to make them aware of and help them utilize their talent and potentialities. It is education that can do wonders in this respect.

This, however, devolves a special responsibility on the educated section of the people. It is time that they assumed this responsibility and made concerted efforts to remove the curse of illiteracy from the land. National and international agencies like UNICEF, UNESCO and others which are already rendering valuable service, are also expected to gear up their activities to make our literacy campaign a success.