

## Tk 57 cr project to train primary teachers in 5 yrs

Staff Correspondent

Due to inadequate number of trainee teachers in the Primary Training Institutes (PTI) the Government is considering to make this training compulsory for all teachers of non-registered primary schools around the country, sources said.

At present the number of enrolled teachers is 1,966 against the capacity of 10,500 in the 53 PTIs of the country. These institutes offer one year formal training called Certificate in Education (C-in Ed) to the untrained teachers of the non-government registered primary teachers.

Under the Bangladesh Primary Education Development Project, the Primary and Mass Education Division launched the second shift in the PTIs of the country on last January.

The second shift was introduced in the PTIs with the financial assistance of the World Bank to develop a sustainable, cost effective, well-managed and equitable primary education system. The 57 crore Taka Project has a target to provide training to all non trained primary teachers of registered schools within next five years.

With a view to reducing the gap between the performance of government and non-government primary schools the authorities introduced this additional shift to train all the non government primary school teachers.

Out of 72,722 different types of primary schools comprising government, non registered and the kindergartens, the number of non-government registered schools is 19,658. In these registered school at the moment 76, teachers are teaching 41 lakh 22 thousand students. But most of the teachers, who got jobs through exerting

influence and not by merit, are non-trained. These types of registered schools are mostly located in the rural areas.

As a result, the quality of education specially in the rural areas has declined sharply, creating a wide gap between the education systems of rural and urban areas.

However, at present the institutes are having shortage of sufficient teachers as most of them got plucked in the nominal selection tests prior to getting into the course.

"We conduct very simple test for the non-trained teachers. But unfortunately most of the teachers are unable to pass the test," said

Md Joynal Abedin the superintendent of Bogra PTI, which is planning to introduce second shift in its institute from the next academic year.

Expressing deep concern over the insufficient number of trainees in the institute he pointed out that it had only 87 students in its first shift against the capacity of 150. Besides at present, the teachers are preferring to do their courses from open university which is more easier than this one.

The scenario of enrolment in PTI is almost same in the other parts of the country said a high official source who preferred not to be named.