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Delay in uplift of 20,000 primary schools

By A Staff Reporter

Completion of the "improvement and development of 20,000 primary schools" of the country will be delayed by at least one year.

The scheme, which had a bad start amid administrative difficulties, found itself stuck up with resource constraints half way through Development and improvement works, therefore, are likely to be completed by the end of the next financial year (1978-79).

Consolidation of existing physical and other facilities improvement in them and development works in 20,000 selected primary schools at an estimated cost of Taka 42 crore were aimed at under the scheme.

The scheme specifically aimed at (a) completing at least three class rooms in each of the estimated 4,000 school buildings (which have remained incomplete), (b) providing basic class-room structures to 2,000 schools previously selected for development but still awaiting construction works, (c) providing three basic class-room structures to each of the 2,000 schools which have at least one bigha of land but are now housed in "dilapidated" structures, (d) bringing 500 schools under government control in areas which are going without schools (e) repairing and renovating 12,000 schools from the existing ones, and (f) commissioning of 110 school-cum-cyclone shelters (now under construction with IDA credit).

The 20,000 schools were divided into three categories. The first category of 4,000 schools which never saw any development work were to be developed at an average cost of Taka 45,000 each. The second category of 4,000 schools (which were earlier taken up for de-

velopment but work was not completed) were to be developed at an average cost of Taka 17,500 each. The third category of 12,000 existing schools which were to be renovated and repaired at an average cost of Taka 10,000 each.

According to an informed source, works on 1,438 schools of category I 999 of category II, and 1819 schools of category III have been completed. Works on remaining 10870 schools are going on.

The Government has so far spent Taka 22 crore for the development of these schools, of which Taka 17 crore was spent during the 1976-77 financial year. During the current financial year Taka 5 crore has been spent so far, while another 4 crore Taka is likely to be pumped in.

The scheme would be completed by the 1978-79 financial year, when the remaining 16 crore Taka would be siphoned off to it.