

Raise funds for primary education: Task Force report

'Govt should lift ban on teachers' recruitment'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 20: The interim report submitted by the Task Force on Education to Chief Minister S M Krishna on Thursday has asked the State Government to lift the ban on recruitment of primary school teachers.

"To ensure that all children of school going age are enrolled, the Government should issue immediate orders relaxing this ban pending the decision on rural weightage," the report presented by Dr Raja Ramanna, Chairman of the Task Force, said.

The task force, which visited schools in Raichur district before finalising the interim report, has laid thrust on the importance of providing mini-

mum infrastructure facilities in schools, including separate toilets for girls and boys and drinking water facility.

"Lack of exclusive toilets for girls is a deterrent to girls enrollment and participation. Only 18 per cent of schools have girls toilets and 64 per cent schools have drinking water facility," the report noted.

The mid-day meal scheme

should be extended to all the districts. The mid-day meals should be made available through Gram Panchayats or NGOs.

Primary teacher training courses should be strengthened and regular refresher training for teachers should be held as an integral part of primary education.

Lower primary schools should

include the V standard as against IV standard at present. The Government should establish and empower School Development and Monitoring Committees, Gram Panchayat Education Committees, Taluka Panchayat Samitis and decentralise the functions of the Education Department.

The report highlighted the use of bullock carts as a means of transportation for students in rural areas. The Gram Panchayats should be allowed to fix school timings, he said.

About 15,000 existing vacancies of teachers should be filled and an additional 9,000 recruited, Dr Ramanna said.

The Government should try to raise funds from the private sector for primary education.

MAHE to start new course

Bangalore, July 20: The Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) in collaboration with the US-based Ohio University is planning to introduce a new management course in Hospital Administration.

Manipal Education Network president Ramdas M Pai told mediapersons on Thursday that the details of the course would be finalised within two months.

Ohio-Manipal School of Business Director Nanda Rangan said there was a demand for MBA in Hospital Administration.

The course, if introduced in association with Ohio University, would allow students to attend classes in the US in the last quarter. • ENS

'Co-operation' in syllabus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, July 20: The State Government will introduce 'Co-operation' as a subject at the primary level from the next academic year, Co-operation Minister D K Shivkumar said here on Thursday.

He told mediapersons that the Education Department had agreed in principle to the proposal.

The Minister said he had also made the recommendation at a recent meeting held in New Delhi to finalise the draft National Policy on Co-operation.

"The success of any Co-operative is based on the participation of its members and lack of participation has resulted in the sorry state of affairs of

the Co-operative Movement. Hence, the National Policy on Co-operatives should aim at inculcating the sense of co-operation in the younger generation," he said.

Replying to a query as to whether the subject would be difficult for students at the primary level, the Minister replied: "At a time when, primary students are learning Computer Science and related subjects, I don't think it will be difficult for them".

A deposit insurance scheme should be evolved and deposits up to Rs 1 lakh should be insured on payment of a nominal amount of premium. An Insurance Co-operative should be established to take up insurance activities in the Co-operative sector, he said.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Minimum infrastructure in schools
- ◆ Separate toilets for girls
- ◆ Extend mid-day meal scheme to all districts
- ◆ Improvise primary teacher-training courses
- ◆ Regular refresher training for teachers
- ◆ Include V Standard in primary schools
- ◆ Establish School Development and Monitoring Committees
- ◆ Use bullock carts in rural areas to transport students
- ◆ Fill up teachers' vacancies
- ◆ Allow Grama Panchayats to fix school timings