Rs145bn allocated in Sindh budget

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah reiterated in the budget speech on Friday his government’s resolve to bring all children to schools and provide them quality education but the funds allocated for the education sector gave the lie to his claim.

Of a total budget of Rs686.18 billion, Rs145.02 billion (21.13 per cent) has been set aside for education, about Rs10 billion up from last year’s Rs135.55 billion.

The budget puts aside Rs134.32 billion for current expenditures, which is up from Rs118.66 billion in 2013-14 budget and allocation for development is Rs10.7 billion, which is less than last year’s Rs16.88 billion.

In 2013-14 also, funds had been kept aside for the establishment of comprehensive schools in all districts. This year, too, Rs550 million has been allocated for the ‘comprehensive schools’, which shows the government failed to set up the schools last year.

The new budget allocates Rs500 million for information and communication technologies-enabled Education Management Information System. The same amount had been set aside in last year’s budget as well.

Further plans include another project of the establishment of 23 English medium schools in all districts for which Rs1.25 billion has been allocated; establishment of engineering colleges in Kh Larkana; law colleges in Hala, Lyari; a girls’ cadet college in Benazirabad, Larkana, and a girls’ college in Naudero along with cadet colleges in Dadu, Mithi and Khairpur.

Meanwhile, the government a 10 per cent increase in salaries board with a raise in fixed medical (grade 1-15), conveyance allowance (grade 1-15) and one premature increment (grade 1-4).

About the second phase of Sindh Reform Programme for which Bank had agreed to provide US $ 2.51 billion for a period of four years till June 2014, chief minister pointed out that the objective was to raise school performance by improving sector governance, accountability and strengthen administrative systems, and measure achievement.

For this, among other things, the government had kept funds for the creation of posts of headmasters and headmistresses.

The state of education in Sindh to Alif Ailaan, an NGO, has deteriorated to such an extent that half of all children in the
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Meanwhile, the government has increased salaries by 10 per cent and provided a raise in medical allowances (grade 1-15), conveyance allowance (grade 1-15) and one premature increment in grade 1-4.

About the second phase of Sind Reform Programme for which the Bank had agreed to provide US $166 million for a period of four years till June 2018, the chief minister pointed out that the objective was to raise school performance by improving sector governance, accountability and strengthening administrative systems, and measure achievement.

For this, among other things, the government had kept funds for the creation of posts of head masters and head maids he said.

The state of education in Sindh, to Alif Ailaan, an NGO, has made much that half of all children in

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