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## Life Insurance to ensure regular attendance of school children:-

Bhubaneswar | August 14, 2005 7:22:34 PM IST

You have heard of Sales promotions offering Life Insurance Policies for purchases of motor vehicles. Now Orissa Government is beaming to offer Life Insurance policies to school children, if they attend schools regularly.

The step has been taken on over 60 per cent children drop out in rural Orissa.

Orissa has nearly 6.8 million school students studying in Government and State-aided schools. The Government, keen on increasing the literacy rate in the State, plans to introduce an insurance cover of 25,000 rupees ( 574 dollars) per head to all the school students. The plan, however, excludes students studying in private-run schools.

Negotiations with insurance companies are underway and Government would soon come up with a foolproof plan, says Nagendra Pradhan, School and Mass Education Minister, Orissa.

" We wish to bring all the children to school. If we launch such a scheme, it would encourage parents to send their wards to schools. We are going to take the decision , but we are examining different aspects thoroughly," says Pradhan.

Teachers and students have welcomed this move. While teachers feel that such a step could give a fillip to the literacy rate in the State, students opine that the insurance cover would prove to be a boon to their families during any emergency.

"Parents would be attracted towards the scheme and they would regularly send their wards to schools. This will help education in the State," says Arun Kumar Jena, a teacher in Government school.

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The dropout rate is over 60 per cent in rural parts of Orissa. To keep the number of dropouts to the minimum, government has come up with innovative schemes such as providing them with free uniform, text-books and mid-day meals. (ANI)



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