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## Over 3,500 underprivileged students to get free educational kits

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Over 3,500 poor and underprivileged students of government schools from 17 rural schools of the district have started getting free educational kits.

These educational kits containing uniforms, pullover, shoes, socks, notebooks, school bags, pen, pencil, crayons are being distributed by the management of the Guru Gobind Singh Refinery.

The 17 rural schools which, have been selected under the ambitious initiative by the refinery were based in nine villages of Kanakwal, Phulokhari, Gyana, Ramsara, Tarkhanwala, Hassu, Rama Town, Naurang, and Rama.

“We firmly believe that education is the only weapon to



Students of government schools with free educational kits in Bathinda. A TRIBUNE PHOTOGRAPH

break away the shackles of poverty and come up in life and the children from the rural underprivileged section, if provided with good opportunities, can excel in academics and extracurricular activities on par with city

children,” said Prabhakar Rao Kakumani, General Manager (Finance) HMEL.

He exhorted students to have high aspirations in life and at the same time stay at the ground and remain humble in order to achieve

success in life. He advised the children to make the best use of the opportunities provided by Guru Gobind Singh Refinery, work hard and study well.

The refinery management claimed it was committed towards the development of society in which, it operates and it would continue to provide such facilities for the benefit of the villages.

The refinery was also running a skill development centre at Phulokhari village in technical collaboration with technical consultancy organisations where, young boys and girls are being provided vocational training in stitching, mobile repair, computer hardware, AC and fridge repair, beautician, electronic repair, besides others.

The uniforms and bags,

which were made by women trained in stitching under the refinery’s skill development programme, would be distributed among students in a phased manner. Besides, the refinery regularly conducted health awareness and agriculture awareness camps under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

Milk collection centres have also been set up by the refinery for milk producers of the area and it was providing veterinary-related facilities at Kanakwal, Phulokhari, Giana, Tarkhanwala and Ramsara villages which has motivated farmers towards dairy farming to supplement their earnings and has resulted in tremendous increase in milk production from these villages.