

Free meal scheme launched in Govt. Kannada school

By Our Special Correspondent

BANGALORE, June 1.

A simple function marked the launching of a free meal scheme for the students of the Basavangudi Government Kannada Middle School here today.

Most of the 250 school children, including 114 girls, of this century-old school are from poor families living in the neighbouring localities.

A Trust called the Love Castles Charitable Trust has volunteered to offer mid-day meals to all the 250 students on all working days from today.

In the presence of Ms. Bhagya Rangachar, Managing Trustee, the Minister for Education, Mr. H. G. Govinde Gowda, inaugurated the scheme by distributing food to the school children. It was a moving sight when the children partook of their meals on the school premises.

A room has been converted into a kitchen and stocked with food articles.

Lauding the gesture of the Trust, Mr. Govinde Gowda appealed to the rich and affluent sections to emulate the example shown by the Love Castles Charitable Trust.

His appeal was also directed to NRIs from Karnataka, who were settled and comfortable to undertake such meaningful service in other Government schools in which students from slums and weaker sections were studying often without a mid-day meal.

He said the poor people would have no grouse against the rich for their lavish style of living provided they also undertook some service to the less fortunate in society.

He said a day's expense in a five-star hotel was perhaps enough to supply mid-day meals to all

the children in a school.

The Mayor, Mr. J. Huchappa, Mr. H. N. Nanje Gowda, former MP and Basavangudi MLA, Mr. Sanjay Kaul, Commissioner for Public Instruction, and senior officials of the Education Department were present.

According to Ms. Sushila Kulkarni, the headmistress, the school had been established more than a Century ago although no attempt had been made to celebrate its centenary.

Although it was originally meant for boys, more than 100 girls were now studying in it.