

# NEC approves 439 projects since Dec '75

119

By A Staff Correspondent

Shah Azizur Rahman, Prime Minister told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday in a written reply to a question by Kazi Abdur Rashid (AL-H) that the present National Economic Council since its formation in December, 1975 till March 31, 1981 has approved 439 projects with a cost of 13,982 crore 15 lakh 21 thousand.

He further said that President Ziaur Rahman is the Chairman of the council. Till March 31, 1981 the council had 102 meetings.

## Rooppur project

Dr. R. A. Gani, State Minister for Science and Technology told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday in a written reply to a question by Sheikh Selim (AL-H) that the Government has decided to install a 300 Megawatt capacity nuclear oven at Rooppur to meet the country's demand. He said that all steps to finalise a project in this regard has been taken.

He further said that the work of the Rooppur Atomic Project was started primarily in 1963 and it was scheduled to be completed in 1968. Land for the project was acquired and infrastructure of 72 staff quarters were completed. The State Minister further said that the Government was taking all steps on priority basis to implement the project. Government has requested friendly countries for finance required for the project. Meanwhile steps have been taken to complete technical and commercial agreements so that implementation of the project was not delayed if any source of finance was finalised. The total cost of the project would be Taka 850 crore at present market rate, he said.

Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday in a written reply to a question by Ukil Shahadat Hossain Choudhury (BNP) that the percentage of literacy in the country in 1979-80 was 24.3 (estimated).

In a written reply to another question by the same member the State Minister said that the number of secondary schools in the country in 1979-80 was 8642, number of primary schools was 43,936. He said the number of children eligible to go to primary schools that year was 1,19,68,000 and in secondary schools was 1,47,04,000. He also said that the number of teachers in secondary schools during that year was 82,061 and in primary schools was 1,88,234.

The State Minister in a written reply to another question by Sheikh Selim (AL-H) told the House that the requirement of text books for students from Class I to Class IX was three crore 15 lakh while a total of three crore 63 lakh books have been printed during the current year. In reply to a supplementary question the State Minister said that it is true that there was delay in publication of four types of books due to strike in printing presses.

In a written reply to a question by Mr. Phani Bhushan Majumder (AL-H) Mr. Baten further said that two crore 73 lakh books published by the Text Book Board was distributed through post offices this year which comprises 87 per cent of the total demand for text books. He said that 52 lakh books, (13 per cent of the total demand) were being distributed free of cost under universal primary education programme.