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9000 primary schools to be rehabilitated in 3 years

By A Staff Reporter

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar Saturday said 9000 primary schools would be rehabilitated over a period of next three years.

Besides, he said, one college and one high school would be nationalised in each of the thanas having none.

These could be considered revolutionary steps taken by the present democratic government, Barrister Sircar said while participating in the debate on the national budget for the fiscal 1992-93 in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The Education Minister informed that three universities-

an open university, a national university and a private university-would be established in the country. Barrister Sircar said Bangladesh would be prosperous if the 19-point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was implemented. He said sufficient funds had been allocated in this year's budget for education, health, family planning sectors. These allocations would improve the overall economic situation significantly, he said.

The Education Minister said political stability and proper law and order situation were the prerequisites for any meaningful development. But, he

said, opposition had an important role to play alongside the government in fulfilling these pre-requisites.

A MANNAN

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism MA Mannan told the Jatiya Sangsad today that the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) in the last budget had yielded favourable results for the national economy.

Participating in the budget debate, he said VAT had helped the realisation of Taka 123 crore more revenue than the set target in 1991-92.

Defending the fiscal
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9000 primary schools

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measures proposed in the proposed budget, the State Minister referred to the per capita income of Bangladesh compared to the countries of ESCAP and SAARC.

The State Minister also justified reduction in tax on some of the luxury items which, he said were aimed at increasing internal resources. He said the increase in use of cars and luxury items would also indirectly create employment opportunities in the country.

He said some of the measures proposed in the budget would encourage the rich to spend more on luxury goods. He also defended proposed tax on chilli to encourage the farmers to increase production of this item.

The fiscal measures proposed in the budget will help contain inflation and create favourable impact on the overall economy, which suffered badly during nine years of autocratic rule, he said.

Treasury Bench Whip Md. Ashraf Hossain described the budget as development oriented and said the budget had definite sense of direction.

Mr Hossain called for solving the problem of Bildakatia

and Mongla Port.

BNP member Abu Taher thanked the Finance Minister for his efforts to mobilise internal resources for the development of the country.

BNP member Farida Hasan said no one could expect investment, foreign or local, in a situation where security and dignity of the businessmen and industrialists were at stake.

BNP member Selina Shahid described the budget a farsighted and realistic.

BNP member Alamgir Kabir said resources of the country were plundered during the autocratic rule of nine years.

Shahidul Huq Jamal of BNP since said people loved BNP and had their confidence in the able leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, had voted this party to power.

BNP member Shahjahan Omar said considering the limitations, the Finance minister had prepared a sound budget. He said BNP which enjoyed people's love had formed the government which till date could not be blamed for indulging in corruption. Others who took part in the budget debate from the Treasury Bench included Mr Wali Ashraf, Sirajul Islam, Salahuddin Ahmed, and Begum Asia Rahman.