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31

12

## 70 pc enrolment in pry school by '90

By A Staff Reporter

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam told the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday that the 644 crore taka universal primary education project now in operation aimed at enrolling 70 per cent of the country's children in schools by 1990.

Replying to a question from Monirul Huq Chowdhury (Comilla-9), the Minister said that the project would continue even after 1990, and arrangements would be made to enroll all the children of the country in primary schools by 2000 AD.

The Minister said that the Mass Education Programme had been launched at a cost of Tk 26.24 crore. Under the programme 13.08 lakh adult illiterate would be imparted education by 1990. This programme would be geared up after 1990 so that adult literacy rate could

be raised to 60 per cent by 2000.

The Education Minister told Mustafizur Rahman (Noakhali-2) that there was a Mass Education Programme under the present Third Five-Year Plan. He said as per the population census of 1981, the literacy rate of the country was 23.8 per cent (five years and above) and 29.2 per cent, (15 years and above). The implementation of project began in 1987 and so far it had been introduced in 14 upazilas. The project would remain in operation till 1990, he said.

The Minister said that since the introduction of the project Tk 117.89 lakh including foreign exchange component of Tk 41.32 lakh had been spent.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam informed S M Nuruzzaman (Naogaon-2) that there was no research institution under the Science and Technology Division. But, he said, the division provides annual financial assistance to different government and non-

Contd. on page 8 col. 4

## Pry school

Contd. from page 1

government research institutions to carry on research and innovative activities.

He said innovations made by using local materials and technology could play a great role for the welfare of the people. He said innovation of Mishuk would help ease transport problem, while the setting up of Bailey Bridge would cost less expenditure. With the innovation of refroscope there would be no need for importing it and thereby huge foreign currency would be saved.

The Education Minister told Jahangir Mohammad Adel (Dhaka-7) that the government had taken steps to remove session jam by holding additional classes. It would take about four years to remove the session jam and additional money would be needed for it, he said and added proposal had been sent to the Finance Ministry for additional fund.