Universal free primary education by '85 : PM

By A Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on Saturday said that Government had taken steps to introduce universal free primary education by 1985 on top priority basis.

Winding up debate on a resolution moved in the Jatiya Sangsad on 'primary education be made compuslory' by Mr Anisuzzaman Khokan (BNP) the Prime Minister said that the process to implement it had already begun.

On the basis of the assurance from the Leader of the House Mr Anisuzzaman Khokan withdrew his revolution.

Earlier, the discussion on the resolution was participated by A S M Solaiman (Ganofront), Abdus Sattar Khan (ML) Salahuddin Yousuf (AL) Suranjit Sengupta (Ekota Party) Shahjahan Siraj (JSD) Prafullah Kumar Sheel (AL) Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder (AL) A B M Taleb Ali (AL) Mr Sirajul Islam (AL) and Asaduzzaman (AL).

Mr Shah Aziz who is also in charge of the Ministry of Education described the resolution as "infractious and unnecessary" saying that the Government had already taken mea-

sures in this regard in accordance with Article 17 of the Constitution.

He said the Government has accorded top-most priority on education sector under the ongoing Second Five-Year Plan when 48 per cent of the total allocation of Taka 775 crore in the field would be spent for primary education.

Describing primary education as one of the basic rights the Prime Minister said that primary education would be made compulsory universal and free in he country within the shortest possible time.

He said a separate directorate has already been set up in the country for exclusively running the primary schools of the country. He said the Government is also making efforts to check drop-outs of the primary school students because of poverty and other reasons.

In this connection he said within the next four years all of the primary school would be given 50 per cent of their books without any cost. He said the girl students would also be provided with school uniform.