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Teaching squads to be formed in each village

By A Staff Reporter

A sum of Tk. 46 crore will be spent during the Second Five-Year Plan period for eradication of illiteracy in the country.

This was stated by the State Minister for Education Mr. Abdul Baten at the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday in reply to a question by Mr. Shawkat Ali, an Awami League (Malek) member from Faridpur.

Mr. Abdul Baten said that the programmes included forming of a couple of three-member teaching squads one for men and another for women in each village, training of teachers engaged in the programme, and printing, publication and distribution of teachers' guides free of cost.

The Minister said that in the first phase of the programme arrangements have been made to educate one crore illiterate people taking 150 persons from each village and to remove illiteracy totally by 1985. In the first phase of the programme, one crore text books would be printed and distributed free of cost among the students.

Mr. Abdul Baten said that the programme also included extensive use of mass communication for the purpose. Besides, he said, it included introduction of a paper carrying 50 marks on "work experience" for secondary and higher secondary students. Under this scheme, each student would have to educate two illiterate persons.

The Minister said that the mass literacy programme also included introduction of "mass literacy classes" in all educational institutions, appointment of the additional deputy

commissioner for the supervision of the progress of the programme and formation of committees in each thana with the circle officer as coordinator and thana education officer as Secretary.

Mr. Abdul Baten said that the implementation of the programme began from February 21 this year and till May 31, a sum of Tk. one crore 96 lakhs and 47 thousand had been spent. He said that there was an allocation of Tk. 3.64 crore for the first phase of the programme.

In reply to another question by Mr. Profulla Kumar Shil, an Awami League (Malek) member from Khulna, the Minister said that the first phase of the mass literacy programme was implemented during January 1 and June 30 this year. Besides, he said, eight adult education pilot projects were already functioning in the country in eight police stations. He said that a sum of Tk. 3.86 crore had been spent during the first phase of the mass literacy programme.