

Primary education will not be denationalised

By A Staff Reporter

Leader of the House Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday that the Government had no plan to denationalise primary education in the country.

Speaking on an Adjournment Motion the Prime Minister, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Education said that the primary school teachers would continue to remain Government employees and would get their salaries from the Government exchequer.

The Adjournment Motion on "the protest and processions by the primary school teachers in the country against the Government decision to hand over primary schools to local Government bodies" was moved by Muslim League Member Mr. Almas Hussain.

The Adjournment Motion was talked out following a discussion for over two hours.

The Leader of the House in his winding up speech said that the opposition's contention that the Government had decided to hand over the management of primary schools in the country to the Union Parishads was based on wrong notions. He said that there could not be such decision without legislation.

Shah Azizur Rahman said that the Government had put the maximum emphasis on primary education and the com-

plete programme for the development of primary education in the country had been outlined in the draft Second Five-Year Plan.

He said that a separate Directorate of Primary Education with exclusive responsibility of primary education would be set up in the country.

He said that the Union Parishads would only be given supervisory responsibility in the matters of primary schools. The UPs, he said would in no way be involved in providing salaries to the primary teachers.

He said that primary school managing committee would be set up with members of Union Parishad, teachers, retired Government servants and guardians at thana level.

At the subdivision level, the Leader of the House said, pri-

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mary education committees would also be established with Members of Parliament and officials. These committees would be responsible for the recruitment of teachers and working out policies for regulating the primary education.

The Prime Minister said that the Government would bring about legislation in this regard and the standing committee of the Sangsad on education would be consulted.

Shah Azizur Rahman said that the Government had planned to introduce free, compulsory and universal primary education system in the country. He said primary schools would be established at every village and the Government would provide free books and other incentives to the students.

The Prime Minister also reiterated the Government programmes for eradicating illiteracy and said that one crore people would be given functional education every year and by the end of 1965 they would get rid of the curse of illiteracy.

Shah Azza also mentioned that academic atmosphere at Dacca University and other educational institutions had improved and that peaceful election were held at Dacca University Central Students Union and at other organisations. He said that the Government did not claim that it had been able to establish an ideal atmosphere in the educational arena but things had definitely improved.

The Prime Minister said that steps to improve the standard of education at higher level would be taken in consultation with the elected members of DUCSU and other organisations.

ALMAS HUSSAIN

Earlier moving his adjournment motion Muslim League Member Mr. Almas Hussain criticised the government policies of handing over the management of primary education to the union parishads. He said that this had created resentment among the teachers and had resulted in a chaotic situation due to the quarrel over the authority of primary schools between the Union Parishads and Education Department officials.

Mr. Hussain said that there was corruption at all levels of Education Department. He further said that the Union Parishads were not capable of managing the primary schools.

A number of members including Mr. A S M Sulatman (Ganofront), Dr. M O Ghan (Independent), Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed (NAP-M), Prof. Mofizul Islam (BJL), Haji Shafiqullah (IDL) and Mr. Abdus

Sattar Khan Chowdhury (ML) participated in the discussion.

They highlighted the present deteriorating situation in the primary education sector, incompetence of Union Parishads to run the administration of primary schools and corruption at various levels of education department.

Treasury Bench Members including Mr. Siddique Rahman, Mia Mansur Ali, Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, Moulana Abdul Mannan and Mr. Zillur Rahman also participated in the debate.

Earlier the House had a brief discussion on consideration motion on the Members of Parliament (Salaries and Allowance) Amendment Bill moved by Leader of the House Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on Friday last.

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives introduced two bills—the Pourashava Amendment Bill 1960 and the Local Government Amendment Bill 1960 on the day.