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Most primary textbooks yet to reach dist edn offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 84 percent of primary and Ebtedayee textbooks for 2008 are yet to reach district primary education offices, although National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) directed printers to distribute the books by November 15.

"We asked press owners to complete printing and district level distribution by November 15 so that children across the country get their books before next academic calendar begins in January. But only 16 percent of the books have been distributed," NCTB Chairman Prof Dr M Masir Uddin told a views-exchange meeting at his office yesterday.

He said about 75 percent of

primary textbooks and 40 percent of Ebtedayee books have already been printed.

"The vacation for Eid-ul-Fitr and Durga Puja is the main reason behind poor distribution," he argued.

He however expressed the hope that distribution of the remaining textbooks before deadline is possible if printers are informed accordingly.

Addressing the meeting as chief guest, Education Additional Secretary Abdul Awal Mujumdar said the World Bank gave Tk 56.4 crore for primary textbooks and Tk 20.5 crore for Ebtedayee books.

"An 18-member central monitoring team and an NCTB-led

seven-member supervisory committee have been formed to check the quality of paper and distribution by November 15," he added.

NCTB Secretary Prof Dr M Serajul Haq said around 4.15 crore textbooks will be printed for primary schools and around 1.86 crore for Ebtedayee madrasas. These books will meet the demand for 75 percent primary textbooks and 40 percent Ebtedayee textbooks.

The NCTB deputy secretary said this year 132 press owners have been given the work order for printing and binding the textbooks meant for free distribution among primary school and Ebtedayee madrasa students.