

PM tells JS

Text books for primary students given free of cost

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Wednesday turned down the allegation that the guardians of the primary students were being compelled to buy text books sent by the government for distribution free of cost at the far-flung areas of the country, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Jatiya Party lawmaker Moshir Rahman Ranga (Rangpur) during the Prime Minister's question-hour at the Jatiya Sangsad, Begum Zia said the government has completed distribution of text books for all government primary schools in the 64 districts of the country by December 2004.

The text books for primary school students, she said, have been distributed in the same manner for the last three years.

Begum Zia said that there is no provision of selling the primary school text books and added the concerned departments have received no complaints that the guardians are being compelled to purchase text books at a higher price.

Steps would be taken against the persons responsible as per rules if such complaints are lodged in this regard.

Replying to supplementaries, the Prime Minister informed the Jatiya Sangsad that the government has sent six crore 63 lakh 81 thousand 813 text books for distribution at the field-level during the current financial year.

She said besides providing of text books free of cost, the government is also providing cash incentives for the poor school children.

Replying to another question, the Prime Minister said that books are being provided free of cost to those school dropouts under the recently-launched "reaching out of school children" project.