

Note Books (Prohibition) Bill passed

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By A Staff Reporter

The Jatiya Sangsad on Monday passed the Note Books (Prohibition) Bill of 1979 with two minor amendments, by voice vote.

The Bill aims at prohibiting the printing, publications, import, distribution and sales of note books for Class-I to Class VIII. The House earlier rejected all amendment motions moved by Opposition bench members calling for circulation of the bill for eliciting public opinion, as well as for sending the bill to a Select Committee.

The amendments to the Clauses of the Bill were moved by Prof Mofizul Islam of Jatiya League.

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, who had introduced the bill in the House, told the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday that the Note Books Prohibition Bill was one of the steps for the phased educational revolution. He said that many more steps for planned improvements in the country's education system was underway.

The Prime Minister, who is also Incharge of the Ministry of Education, said that from now on all text books would be adequately annotated, thus making note books redundant. He pointed out that the bill

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provided for a system of class-notes in the schools.

The Prime Minister told the House that a number of note books publishers and sellers had netted out fortunes for themselves by indulging in what he termed "note books racket".

The Prime Minister regretted that widespread use of note books authored by incompetent writers had deplorably lowered the standard of education, as well as of teaching. "We do not want any more note books graduates" he declared.

Shah Azizur Rahman pointed out that the Government was spending taka three crores per annum for subsidising the costs of text books publication, while note book racketeers thrived on high priced note books.

Shah Azizur Rahman refuted the Opposition criticism that the bill was tantamount to nationalising note books publication. He said that this was more planned development.

Earlier Opposition Bench members messrs A.S.M. Solaiman (Gano Front) Abdus Sattar Khan Chowdhury (ML);

Mozammel Huq (IDL); A. Martin (ML); Begum Syeda Razia Feiz (ML); Mohammad Toaha (Sanyabedi Dal); Sirajul Huq (IDL) and Prof Mofizul Islam (Jatiya League) spoke against the bill.

Treasury Bench members Mrs Farida Rahman, Whip of the BNP Parliamentary Party; Mr Wajed Hossain Tarafdar, Mr Ahmed Nazir and Mr Siddiqur Rahman spoke in favour of the bill.