

No rise in text book price

By A Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday that the Government had maintained the previous price of text books published by the Bangladesh Text Book Board by giving subsidy. Price of textbooks has not been increased, he said.

He was replying to supplementary question by Col. (Retd). Showkat Ali and Mr. Mohammad Mohsin both of Awami League (Malek) during question hour in the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question by Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar (AL-Malek) Mr. Abdul Baten, State Minister for Education said that price of text books published by Text Book Board had not been increased after 1975. On the contrary price of textbooks for Class I to Class III has been reduced by 25 per cent in 1978.

Mr. Baten in a written reply to a question by Mr. Profullah Kumar Sil (AL-Malek) said that distribution of text books through post offices was under the consideration of the Government.

Replying to a supplementary question by Mr. Sil the State Minister said that there were post offices in almost all villages in the country through which distribution of textbooks at a fair price would be easy and students in rural areas could also procure textbooks easily.

Mr. Abdul Baten said that the number of primary stu-

dents was one crore 20 lakh in the country, but facilities existed only for 82 lakh and 60 thousand of such students, according to information available with the Government.

He was replying to a question by Mr. Abdul Bari Sardar (BNP) in the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday. In a written reply the State Minister also said that universal primary education programme was under preparation by the Government to provide education to all children under school-going age which would be implemented during the Second Five Year Plan period.

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman Minister incharge of Education in reply to a supplementary question said that Government would introduce compulsory religious education in future in Class IX and X. Earlier Mr. Abdul Baten, State Minister for Education in a written reply to a question by Mr. Mosharaf Hossain Talukdar said that compulsory religious education system was introduced up to class VIII.

In reply to a supplementary question by Mr. M.A. Matin (ML) Prime Minister Shah Aziz said that the examination centre for Secondary School Certificate Examination would be reduced in future. Present SSC examination centres in coastal belts lacking communication facility would be withdrawn, he said. The supplementary came after the State Minister gave the written reply to a question by Alhaj Mohammad Shafiullah (IDL).

Science Museum

BSS adds: The work of preparing the architectural design of the Science Museum by the P.W.D. is in the final stage, State Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. R.A. Gani told Parliament on Wednesday.

Dr. Gani told Mr. Mohammad Asaduzzaman during question hour that once the design was ready, construction of the museum would be completed within two years. The site for the museum has been selected at Agargaon in Sher-e Bangla Nagar, he said.

He also said that in the current ADP, Taka 78 lakh had been allocated for the development of the Science Museum. The total allocation for the museum in the Second Five-Year Plan is Taka ten crore, he added.