

Class IX text books sale begins soon

By A Staff Reporter

The sale of new text books for Class IX of the 1983 session will begin all over the country within a couple of days.

The books will be distributed through 3000 retailers of the Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association who are publishing the new books on behalf of the Text Book Board.

Education and Religious Affairs Minister Dr Abdul Majeed Khan said this on Sunday while announcing the publication of seven out of eight new books under the single-stream SSC curricula, at his Secretariat office room.

Under the new curricula each SSC level students will have a set of 13 books at a cost of Taka 130. Five of those books are directly published by the Text Book Board. The science text book will be available by the middle of March.

The function, attended by the Secretary and other senior officials of the Ministry of Education and the Text Book Board, was also addressed by Mr. Jahangir Mohammad Adel, President, Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association.

The Minister said that the books were written anew, their

parts, also taking into cognizance the suggestions of teachers' representatives. Such evaluation of text books prior to their publication was never done before, he said.

Dr Abdul Majeed Khan pointed out that a second phase of evaluation of the books would be carried out for another year by teachers and learners at the school-level, and the second edition of these books would last for four to six years.

Dr Khan termed the publication of the books under the new arrangement as a breakthrough on a number of counts a) the prices remained within purchasing capacities of guardians even without requiring the government to pay subsidies, b) after 12 years of unsuccessful efforts to make an alternative arrangement, the job of text-book publication returned to the publication industry that would now be revitalized, c) there would remain no scope for complaint about non-

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Text books

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availability of book as the publishers would shoulder the responsibility of reaching books to learners on a commercial basis.

The Education Minister reminded all concerned that the government was in no way imposing the new books, as there was scope for changing their contents, if needed, through the proposed year-long second phase of evaluation. The second edition of the books would be printed on white paper, and the books would have resale value. Many learners would be able to use second-hand text books at much lesser prices.

Dr Abdul Majeed Khan said that during the past decade the publishing industry suffered, as their business was contracted by trial and errors about publication of text books. The private publishers did not only sell text books, but also other books that enriched the knowledge industry. The Minister said that book publication was an essential trade which had no alternative.

While praising the private publishers for their success in bringing out the books at short notice, the Minister hoped that they would take full advantage of the Government policy of returning text book publication to them and see to it that there was no complaint about availability of books.

Replying to a question, Dr Khan said according to the present estimate a total of three lakh students read in Class IX. Replying to another question he said before the publication of the new books, each student in science, humanities and commerce groups had to buy books worth Taka 76, 61 and 55, respectively.

Earlier Mr Jahangir Mohammad Adel said that the book publishers and sellers did not only earn their bread through their business, but also took the pride in reaching books to

learners who were the future citizens of Bangladesh. He assured full cooperation of the members of his association in removing the problems that the learners so long faced in getting books on time.

BOOKS PRESENTED

BSS adds: The Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association at a function in Dhaka on Sunday presented a set of newly published text books for Class IX and X to the Minister for Education and Religious Affairs, Dr Abdul Majeed Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Khan said the publication of the text books was a "breakthrough".

The set of books comprising eight new and five old publications would be distributed among the students all over the country by 3,000 distributors.

The newly published books are English, Bengali, Bengali grammar and mathematics in two parts.