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Payment of old age allowance from May next

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that payment of old age allowance to deserving persons in the country is expected to start from May next, report agencies.

Replying to a question from Dhirendranath Saha (AL-Narail), the prime minister said taka fifty crore has been earmarked in the budget of the current fiscal for launching this scheme.

Hasina told the House that the government is determined to free the country from the curse of illiteracy by 2006.

In reply to Dr Md Rustam Ali Faraji (JP), Hasina said a new education policy is now at the final stage.

She also informed the JS that the government has fixed a target of disbursing Tk 247.75 crore as loans to youths under the self-employment generation scheme.

The money will be disbursed.

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through the Ministry of Youth and Sports. She said arrangements have been made to disburse Tk 102.95 till the current fiscal year.

Responding to a question Hasina told the House that at the moment the government has no plan to construct railway line from Aricha to Dhaka.