

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2404
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
NATIONAL BOOK TRUST
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken any steps through the National Book Trust to propagate the reading habit in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such work undertaken by the National Book Trust in this regard;
- (c) whether any additional funding is likely to be given to the NBT to carry out workshops and seminars all over the country to stress the importance of the reading habit; and
- (d) if so, the other steps, if any proposed by the Government to enhance the activity of National Book Trust in this area?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)&(b): The NBT plays important role in promoting books and habit of reading by organizing book fairs and exhibitions and other book related activities all over the country. The NBT publishes general reading material for all segments of the society and for all age groups, including children & post-literacy reading material for neo-literates. These are moderately priced books of fiction & non-fiction published in English, Hindi and other languages recognized in the constitution. On an experimental basis, select titles for children have also been translated into Bhili, Boro, Garo, Khasi, Lepcha, Limboo, Mising, Mizo and Newari.

(c)&(d): The funding for all book promotional activities including conducting of workshops/seminars etc has been increased from Rs. 386 lakhs in the year 2001-2002 to Rs. 670 lakh in the year 2002-2003.