

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2162  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010  
LIBRARIES ABROAD  
Shekhar Shri Neeraj

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government operates libraries like Bharat Nepal Library in Embassies/ Consulates/Cultural Centres abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the budgetary provisions made therefor and utilized during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to open such libraries in other countries; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

- (a) Yes. Libraries are an integral part of the Press & Information Wings of most of our Missions abroad.
- (b) Expenses related to the libraries are met from the publicity budgets of Missions and there is no separate budget provided by the Ministry as such.
- (c) & (d) Yes. Such plans are factored into government's decision to open a new diplomatic Mission or Cultural Centre.