

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:193  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010  
IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
Thomas Shri P. T.

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of public libraries in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the central assistance made available and utilised during the last two years and the current year;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to enhance the central financial assistance to public libraries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government for the improvement of public libraries?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR STATE OF PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 193 FOR 10.03.2010 REGARDING IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

(a) The number of public libraries in the country as per evaluation Study on status of Public Libraries in the country conducted by A.C. Nielson ORG MARG pvt. Ltd. on behalf of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) in the year 2003 may kindly be seen at Annexure-I.

(b) The Central assistance to Public Libraries is provided through the RRRLF, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture. The amount of central assistance made available through the RRRLF during last two years and the current year may kindly be seen at Annexure-II. The grant available with RRRLF was fully utilized for promotion of public libraries all over the country.

(c) & (d) On the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, it is proposed to set up a National Commission on Libraries. Proposals to improve Public Libraries inter- alia by modernization of facilities, providing services like inter-Library loan, online public access of catalogues/audio visual resources, improvement of physical space with clean drinking water, toilet facilities taking into account special needs of children, women and physically challenged, are likely to be considered for implementation.

(e) RRRLF has schemes of matching assistance and non-matching assistance for improvement of Public Libraries covering inter-alia aspects like adequate stock of books, purchase of computers, assistance for organizing seminars etc.