

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2051
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010
SETTING UP OF CENTRAL LIBRARY FUND
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received a proposal to set up a Central Library Fund;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to encourage greater community participation in library management;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to promote application of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in libraries?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended setting up a Central Library Fund from the Government for upgrading existing libraries over a period of three to five years. This central funding may be matched by the private sector, through corporate philanthropy.

(c) & (d) The National Knowledge Commission has also recommended greater community participation in library management by involving different stakeholders and user groups in managerial decision.

A National Commission on Libraries is proposed to be set up to consider the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and to work out details of implementation.

(f) The National Library, Kolkata, Central Reference Library and other important Libraries of the Country, under the Ministry of Culture have started computerization of their Catalogue Records. Digitalization of old and rare books and documents is also under progress. ICT is now used in libraries like Delhi Public Library to provide better services to readers.