

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4408
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES
Singh Shri Vijay Bahadur

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up a National Commission on Libraries on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the current status of implementation of the recommendations of NKC on Libraries including allocation of funds;
- (d) whether there is an urgent need for revamping the library services and systems in the country using Information Communication Technology; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (c) No, Sir. So far as setting up of the National Commission on Libraries is concerned, the matter has been considered in a meeting of the Committee of Secretaries (COS) and following decisions have been taken:

(i) Libraries are required to be developed at all levels and to achieve this, a new Mission may be required; however, constitution of National Commission on Libraries does not appear to be necessary at this stage. Digitization and Networking would enhance public access to the Libraries. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata could function as a coordinating body for promotion of Libraries and further strengthening of the foundation may be necessitated at later stage.

(ii) A group, consisting of representatives from Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of School Education & Literacy and Ministry of Culture may prepare an action plan on what can be done in the next couple of years for promotion of libraries at all levels. The proposal for a National Commission on Libraries can be considered at a later stage as part of the deliberations of the 12th Five Year Plan Working Group.

At present the discussion on the 12th Five Year Plan are going on in working groups and 12th Plan is likely to be finalized during this year by the Planning Commission. Thereafter, the implementation of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission can be considered.

(d) & (e) Library is a state subject. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is now used by most of the National Level Libraries for modernization of their services.