

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:279  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012  
NATIONAL MISSION ON LIBRARIES  
Devi Aswamedh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch a National Mission on Libraries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the activities proposed to be taken up under the said mission;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to implement the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission on Libraries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the current status of implementation of the said recommendations; and
- (e) the steps being taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to develop libraries and promote reading habits in the people across the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House. STATEMENT REFEREED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.279 FOR 24.04.2012 REGARDING NATIONAL MISSION ON LIBRARIES.

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A High Level Committee to be called 'National Mission on Libraries' has been constituted. Terms of reference for the National Mission on Libraries are as follows :-

- (i) advising the Government of India on all library and information sector matters of national importance,
- (ii) preparing long term plans and strategies for development of the library sector,
- (iii) interacting with State Governments on library matters,
- (iv) setting standards for library services,
- (v) encouraging and promoting partnership with corporate sector, philanthropic organizations, as well as bilateral and international agencies in the development of the library and information sector,
- (vi) reviewing and assessing current status of library and information Science education
- (vii) coordinating with stakeholder Ministries such as the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Information Technology, Ministry of Panchayati Raj etc., to ensure effective implementation of the National Knowledge Commission's (NKC) recommendations on libraries and management of the post-implementation scenario.
- (viii) coordination with other national stakeholders of the library and information sector.
- (ix) collaborating with counterpart agencies in other countries to explore areas for cooperation which will lead to strengthening of India's library and information sector.
- (x) securing public support through advocacy and media by providing evidence of delivery, usage, outcomes and impact.
- (xi) helping State Governments (that do not yet have library legislation) in formulating State Library Acts. The activities proposed to be taken up under the said Mission include; national census of libraries, infrastructure development in public libraries, information and communication technology application for improving library services, strengthening of library and information science education, training and research facilities and skill development programmes for library staff, development of sections for differently abled and other special groups, establishment of knowledge centres, content creation and networking of libraries etc.,

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam National Knowledge Commission (NKC) inter alia recommended that a National Mission on Libraries should be set up leading to formation of a permanent National Commission on Libraries. Accordingly the High Level Committee (National Mission) has been constituted. Other recommendations of the NKC are to :

- (i) Prepare a national census of all libraries,
- (ii) Revamp Library Information Science (LIS) education, training and research facilities,
- (iii) Re-assess staffing of libraries,
- (iv) Set up a central library fund,
- (v) Modernize library management,
- (vi) Encourage greater community participation in library management,
- (vii) Promote information communication technology [ICT] applications in all libraries,
- (viii) Facilitate donation and maintenance of private collections and (ix) Encourage public private partnerships in LIS. These recommendations are broadly covered under the mandate of the National Mission

(e) Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) is working for the strengthening of the public library sector in the country. The Foundation, through its schemes supplies books to Public Libraries, provides grants for infrastructure development, acquire computers and construct buildings etc. In order to promote reading habit, RRRLF provides assistance to set up special corners in public libraries for various groups such as children, women, senior citizens, differently abled etc. The Schemes envisaged to be taken up by National Mission on Libraries will upgrade public libraries and promote reading habit across the country.