

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:702
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012
PUBLIC LIBRARIES
Patle Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of public libraries in the country including Chhattisgarh, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is considering to formulate any scheme for promoting libraries in the rural areas of the country including Chhattisgarh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government to improve and develop the libraries in the country ?

Answer

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

- a) Comprehensive data regarding the number of public libraries in the country is not available. However, the number of public libraries in the country as per the details furnished by the State Governments, State-wise, is Annexed.
- b) to d) Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, is implementing several schemes to provide assistance to public libraries, including State Central libraries, district and rural libraries. These schemes cover, inter alia, aspects like increasing the stock of books, purchase of computers and infrastructural improvements.

A High Level Committee i.e. National Mission on Libraries has been set up by the Government of India to improve the library and information service sector in the country. The Mission will undertake projects for modernization and networking of libraries, skill development of library staff, expansion of library services in backward and rural areas etc.