

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2812
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
AGRAHAYANA SAKA TASK FORCE FOR GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES
Biswal Shri Hemanand

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Task Force for Government Libraries and staff therein;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the composition, terms of reference and tenure of the Task Force;
- (c) whether the Task Force has submitted any report and if so, the salient features of recommendations and action taken thereon;
- (d) whether there is any representative from the GILA, the representative body of Government Libraries (beneficiary Libraries) as recommended by the 5th CPC vide Para No.55.161;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the criteria for nominating/selecting the member of the Task Force and the reasons for ignoring the representatives from GILA?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SMT. CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Culture constituted a Task Force vide order dated 16.10.2009 to examine various recommendations of 5th Central Pay Commission (CPC) relating to Government Libraries and their staff. The composition of the Task Force was as under:

1. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture Chairman
(In charge of Library Section)

2. Dr. S. S. Murthy Member
(Retd. Director, Defence Science
Documentation Centre)

3. Sh. M. C. Raghvan, Member
(Retd Librarian Indian Institute of
Public Admn)

4. Dr. S. Majumdar, Member
(University Librarian, Delhi University)

5. Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, Member
(Head, Kala Nidhi Division, IGNC)

6. Dr. P. R. Goswami, Member Secretary
(Director, Central Secretariat Library)

The terms of reference of the Task Force were:

- (i) to devise a proper formula for the categorization of various types of libraries.
- (ii) to recommend revised criteria for the categorization of libraries.

(iii) to explore the possibility of setting up of Library Cell in the Ministry of Culture.

Task Force was to submit its report within 3-4 months.

(c): The Task Force submitted its report in July, 2011. Salient features of the recommendations pertained to the following:

1. New parameters suggested for categorization of libraries.
2. Changes in the existing parameters for categorization of libraries.
3. Assistant Editor and Sub-Editor who are language librarians to be treated as library professionals.
4. Libraries having special nature to be independently evaluated and categorized.
5. Professional opportunities for qualified librarians.
6. 'Government Libraries' to be defined.
7. Mandatory maintenance of statistics of the quantifiable parameters used in categorization by all Government Libraries.
8. Resolution of anomalies for categorization of very small libraries with very few staff.
9. Establishment of an Indian Library and Information Science Service.
10. Application of revised categorization formula in 10-12 libraries identified by Ministry of Culture to test its utility.

The Task Force submitted its report in July, 2011 and it was sent to the Ministry of Finance. MOF examined the report and suggested certain revisions in the categorization formula and returned it to Culture Ministry. The report was revised keeping in view the comments of MOF. It has again been sent to the Finance Ministry.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): Members of the Task Force were nominated by the Ministry of Culture on the basis of their specialization and experience in the field of Library and Information Science including computer applications in libraries. Para 55.161 of the 5th CPC report recommended that the Department of Culture should evolve norms for staffing patterns of each category of library in consultations with the Work Study Units of the Department of Expenditure, Indian Bureau of Standards and Professional Bodies of Librarians. Accordingly, a meeting was convened by the Task Force on 18.3.2011 with the stakeholders to discuss the recommendations of 5th CPC on Government Libraries and revised categorization formula. Representatives of Central Government Library Association; Government of India Librarians' Association; Indian Association for special Libraries and Information Centers, Kolkata; Department of Expenditure and DOPT were invited and attended the meeting. They were also requested to send their suggestions to the Task Force.