

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.56
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2019**

OBSERVATION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY DAY

56. SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRI SELVAM G.:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government observed 'National Library Day' to focus on the importance of books and if so, the details thereof along with aims and objectives behind it;
- (b) the total number of libraries currently running in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has created awareness to popularize book reading habits and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has set up libraries in rural areas where people cannot afford to buy books and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps proposed by the Government to promote book reading habit in children?

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

ANSWER

(a) No Sir.

(b) & (c) There are six libraries under administrative control of Ministry of Culture namely:

- i. National Library, Kolkata
- ii. Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi
- iii. Central Reference Library, Kolkata
- iv. Delhi Public Library, Delhi
- v. Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna
- vi. Rampur Raza Library, Rampur

These libraries conduct various activities to popularize book reading habits such as Membership Drive, Book Exhibitions, Lectures, Workshops, Seminar etc.

(d) Library is a State subject. It functions under the administrative control of the respective State/UT library authorities. Therefore, setting up libraries in rural area comes under the jurisdiction of State/UT library authorities.

(e) Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, an autonomous organization of Ministry of Culture provides financial assistance for establishment of Children Corner in public libraries to inculcate the book reading habit in children.