

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3009  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021**

**CONDITION OF HISTORIC LIBRARIES**

3009. SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:  
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BAAIYA):  
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:  
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:  
SHRI NISITH PRAMANIK:  
SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI  
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the historic libraries of the country are suffering from and in a pathetic condition and if so, the Government's reaction thereto;
- (b) whether the Government is proposing to create an All India Library Services Cadre for common service conditions and pay scales in libraries across country and if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether the most of the important and historic libraries of the country are now headed by the non library professionals and if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has any roadmap for development of Public Library System and allocate separate funds in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of man power shortage in public libraries in the country, State-wise and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM**

**(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

**ANSWER**

- (a) Sir, as per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Library is a state subject and comes under the purview of the respective State/Union Territory authorities.

However Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata, a nodal agency of Central Government for promoting and supporting Public Library movement, provides under its matching and non-matching schemes financial assistance for development of public libraries for various purposes eg. Books, furniture & equipments, modernization, construction of library buildings, mobile library services, establishment of children corner, facilities for specially-abled readers, seminars/workshops etc.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration in this Ministry.

(c) Library is a State subject and it comes under the purview of the State/UT Library Authorities. There are six libraries under administrative control of Ministry of Culture namely:

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

As per Recruitment Rules, all the aforesaid Libraries were earlier headed by the Library Professionals. Presently the Posts of Heads of National Library, Delhi Public Library, Rampur Raza Library, Central Secretariat Library are vacant. For running their day to day activities, additional charge was given to JS(Lib) in respect of National Library, Kolkata (upto 06.03.2021), Delhi Public Library(upto 08.12.2020), to DM, Rampur in respect of Rampur Raza Library and to Director (Lib)in respect of Central Secretariat Library till regular appointment is made.

(d) RRRLF, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture with the active co-operation of the State Library Authorities is providing financial assistance for improvement of Public Library Services through implementation of various Matching and Non-Matching Schemes.

National Mission on Libraries (NML) under its NML Model Library scheme provides financial assistance to one (1) State Central Library and one (1) District Library in each State/UT as recommended by the respective State/UT Library Authority. Six (6) libraries under the Ministry of Culture are also eligible for assistance under this scheme.

(e) Library is a State subject and man power shortage in public libraries in the country comes under the purview of the State/UT Library Authorities. Accordingly, the steps taken to meet shortage of man power in public libraries in the country do not come under the purview of this Ministry.