GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2682
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2018

Digital Library

2682. SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

a. whether the Government has awarded a pilot project for development of National Digital Library (NDL) to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur;
b. if so, the details thereof with the progress made during the last three years;
c. whether the Government has checked/verified from national/international library organizations/associations that NDL is a digital library project or just Online National Union Catalogue and if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated to IIT, Kharagpur during the last three years for NDL;
d. whether the NDL is different than of Digital Library of India (DLI), hosted by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and if so, the details thereof with its advantages/disadvantages over DLI and if not, the reasons therefor; and
e. the other steps being taken by the Government to merge various national level digital libraries/repositories/union catalogues like DLI, NDL, Developing Library Network (DELNET), Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)etc. to save Public money?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)

(a)   Yes, the pilot project for development of National Digital Library (NDL) was awarded to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur in April 2015.

(b)   NDL was opened to students, faculty members and staff members of Centrally Funded Educational Institutes in February 2016. Subsequently it has been opened progressively to users of select institutes such as AICTE, UGC and finally it has been opened to general public in February 2017. Anybody can go to the site

https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in, register and start using the Library. It is also available as Mobile App (Android and iOS). Both the web and mobile applications are free to use.

NDL functions 24x7. Currently it contains more than 152 lakh e-contents. The contents cover all domains of education and all levels of learners from school level to the highest level of education including life-long learners. Contents of more than 100 languages including 26 Indian languages are currently available in NDL. Currently NDL has an active user base of more than 14 lakh. Daily hit to the Library is more than 25000.

(c)   NDL is a digital library based on metadata searching of the digital resources and not a Union Catalogue. Unlike catalogue services, NDL users can access resources directly from NDL. In NDL, full-text access is free for open resources and nationally subscribed resources. There are also resources in NDL which may need permission from the source authority/author or subscription (to respective publishers) to access full-text.

A team of eminent Librarians and Library Science Professors of the country carried out a comparative study between NDL and six major International Digital Libraries of the world. They found NDL is comparable to other International Digital Libraries.

For the Pilot phase, over last 3 years, Rs 26.86 Crore has been remitted to IIT Kharagpur.

(d)   The charter Digital Library of India (DLI) is to digitize copyright free books and host them in a digital repository/library. The charter of NDL is to make existing digital resources easily searchable and accessible to the users through a single window by integrating existing digital repositories/libraries. So the charters are quite distinct and hence no comparison of advantages/disadvantages is applicable.

(e)   INFLIBNET is already integrated in NDL which means NDL users can access resources hosted in INFLIBNET through the single window search facility of NDL.

DLI was integrated with NDL in 2016. However, presently since the DLI site is not working NDL is not linked to DLI.

DELNET is an online union catalogue and does not host any digital content or support content metadata needed for search in NDL.