

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 234
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.06.2019**

FORMULATION OF A NATIONAL LIBRARY POLICY

234. DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

Will the **Minister of CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an urgent need for formulation of a National Library Policy for coordinated development of the libraries in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a large number of posts in libraries under the administrative control of the Ministry are lying vacant and if so, the details of sanctioned posts and vacant posts, library/institution-wise and steps being taken by the Government to fill up vacant posts;
- (c) whether due to shortage of fund and resources, libraries are in state of despair including the National Library, Kolkata and if so, the details thereof along with the Government's reaction thereto; and
- (d) the other measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Minister of State (Independent Charge) For Culture and Tourism
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

ANSWER

- (a) Library is a state subject and Libraries in States/Union Territories function under the administrative control of the respective State/Union Territory authority. National Knowledge Commission, established in 2005, constituted a working group on Libraries which recommended setting up a National Mission on Libraries to revamp Library and Information Services sectors. Based on the recommendations, National Mission on Libraries has been setup to achieve the goal of creating a knowledge society.
- (b) No, Sir. Most of the live posts in the libraries under the administrative control of this Ministry are filled up.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Ministry of Culture through matching and non-matching schemes of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation and through National Mission on Libraries is providing financial assistance for various purpose e.g. construction/renovation of library buildings, upgradation of infrastructure with furniture and equipment, modernization, procurement of books and reading resources, organization of seminar/training and capacity building of library professionals/workshop/outreach programmes, establishment of children corner, opening of various sections, creating facilities for specially-abled, braille corner etc.