GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†1703
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

**MODERNISATION AND INFRASRUCTURAL
DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL LIBRARIES**

†1703 SHRIMATI GOMATI SAI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central Libraries across the country especially in Raigarh Parliamentary constituency of Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the Government has prepared any plan for modernization and infrastructural development of Central Libraries during the present digital era;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the new steps taken by the Government to introduce new innovative technologies in all libraries to deal with the emerging challenges arising out of the use of services / products like Google, Wiki, Quora, social media and e-resources etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT
OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) Library is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India and Public Libraries function under the administrative control of the respective State / Union Territory Authority. Only the following 7 Libraries are functioning under Ministry of Culture:-

  i. National Library, Kolkata
 ii. Central Reference Library, Kolkata
iii. Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi
 iv. Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, U. P.
  v. Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, Bihar
 vi. Delhi Public Library, Delhi
vii. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata

There is no library under this Ministry in Raigarh Parliamentary Constituency of Chhattisgarh.

(b) to (e) Ministry of Culture through its National Mission on Libraries (NML) Scheme, under 'Setting up of NML Model Library' component, provides financial assistance to 1 State Central Library and 1 District Library in each State / UT, as per the recommendation of the State Authority concerned for modernization and infrastructure development.

Also, the Indian Culture Portal (ICP) has been developed by Ministry of Culture in collaboration with IIT Bombay under National Virtual Library of India (NVLI) component of its Scheme "National Mission on Libraries". The Portal was launched on 10.12.2019 by the then Hon'ble Culture Minister. ICP hosts data from all Organisations under Ministry of Culture and has digital as well as bibliographical data which people from all walks of life can refer to depending upon their requirement. The Digital data available on ICP includes E-Books, Rare-Books, Audio-Visual Content, Images, Archival Documents, Stories, Snippets etc. along with relevant metadata which are accessible to public including students, researchers, artists, divyang persons and common man. For visually impaired, high contrast view functionality has been embedded along with facility to increase or decrease font size. The Indian Culture Portal is bilingual for ease of understanding.

Also, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), an Autonomous Body under Ministry of Culture, through its matching and non-matching schemes provides financial assistance to public Libraries for various purposes e.g. construction / renovation of library buildings, up-gradation 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, brail corner etc.