

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4120
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025**

PUBLICITY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

4120. SHRI KARTI P CHIDAMBARAM:

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

- a) the details of the criteria and methodology used by the Government for the identification and tabulation of public libraries under its purview and whether it has been independently verified;
- b) the details of awareness or outreach activities undertaken by the Government to publicise these libraries among the local population;
- c) whether the Government maintains a comprehensive list of such libraries with complete addresses; and
- d) if so, the details thereof and whether this list is available in electronic format for public access and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

a) As per Article 246 of the Constitution of India, libraries fall under the State List in the Seventh Schedule, with public libraries functioning under the administrative control of the respective State or Union Territory authorities.

However, the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, extends financial assistance for the development of public libraries across the country through various approved Matching and Non-Matching Schemes, in active collaboration with the respective State/UT Library Authorities.

In addition, the Ministry of Culture implements the National Mission on Libraries (NML) Scheme, under which financial assistance is provided for the *Up-gradation of Existing Libraries under the NML Model Library* component. Under this component, support is extended to one State Central Library and one District Library in each State/UT—based on recommendations from the respective State authorities and subject to the availability of State funds—in addition to six libraries identified by the Ministry. The initiative focuses on four key areas: improvement of infrastructure; upgradation of technology and modernization of services; creation of facilities for specially-abled groups; and procurement of reading resources tailored to local needs, along with advocacy and outreach programmes.

(b) The Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) provides assistance to States/UTs for operating mobile libraries, particularly in rural and remote areas, with the objective of promoting reading habits and extending library services to underserved communities. Financial support is also extended for organizing book fairs, exhibitions, and reading promotion activities at the district and block levels, thereby attracting diverse user groups, including students, senior citizens, and women. To enhance user engagement and service delivery, RRRLF supports modernization of libraries through infrastructure upgradation, provision of furniture, ICT equipment, and internet connectivity, which contribute to improved visibility, accessibility, and usability of libraries among local populations.

In addition, the *National Register of Public Libraries*, recently launched by RRRLF, serves as an information repository on the presence of libraries across different parts of the country and creates awareness among local citizens regarding the availability of public libraries in their vicinity.

Under the National Mission on Libraries (NML) Scheme, financial assistance is provided through the sub-component *Procurement of Reading Resources to Meet Local Needs and Advocacy & Outreach Programmes*. This includes support for the procurement of books, e-books, audio/video collections, periodicals, and other resources as per local demand; and for conducting advocacy and outreach programmes such as stakeholder engagement, collaborations with civil society, quizzes, creative writing competitions, model-making, music competitions, workshops, publicity of library activities in local media, and the opening of extension counters in local schools for the benefit of students, teachers, and staff. Assistance is provided up to ₹3.00 lakh for each State Central Library, ₹2.00 lakh for each District Library, and ₹4.20 lakh for each Ministry of Culture Library.

(c) & (d) The Government of India, through the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) under the Ministry of Culture, has recently launched a significant initiative to compile and maintain a comprehensive, national-level dynamic database of public libraries across the country.