



Tuesday, December 06, 2005

Why was Matherani grilled by IB, RAW? #Congress steers clear, lets PM

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Rs 4 crore sanctioned for State Library

Pioneer News Service/ Bhubaneswar

Minister for Culture Damodar Rout on Monday announced a renovation package for the prestigious Harekrushna Mahtab State Library in the Bhubaneswar. The Government has sanctioned Rs 4 crore under the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF).

Schemes for developmental work in the State Library, including total digitisation and computerisation of the library collections, are lined up. Mr Rout also said they would work on the library's official website and the networking of the library as well.

Speaking at a Press conference, Mr Rout said to meet the growing demands of library users, Bhubaneswar Public Library (BPL) would be shifted to the annex building. The building will be constructed using the grant from the 12th Finance Commission.

The State Library, which has been hitherto used as a lending library, will now be used exclusively for research and reference work.

At present, the library has more than 1.45 lakh books arranged under different classes and subjects. The Library subscribes to nearly 70 magazines and newspapers.

Apart from the State Library, the Government has decided to set up the Orissa Public Library Council for the development of a network of public libraries of which the State Library, district libraries, city libraries, sub-divisional libraries, block libraries, panchayat libraries and rural libraries, NGOs-run aided libraries will be a part. This is to improve and inculcate reading habits in people.

The Government has spent Rs 1.61 crore on public library services in 2005-06.

For development of public libraries, the Government, with the help of RRRLF scheme has been providing assistance to 600 libraries for books, storage of books, children libraries, mobile libraries, computerisation, construction of building and furniture, and for centenary celebrations of libraries.

Mr Rout also informed that the Culture Department would take over 13 district libraries and reading rooms, information centres under I&PR as grantee libraries and buildings will be provided to these libraries on a priority basis.

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