

Subject:- Punjab Public library and information Act.

Punjab Public Library and information Act has been a subject of discussion at many conferences and seminars. Recommendations have also been made to the government time and again to formulate this Act. Punjab Library Association has prepared a model Act which was sent to the Government .But in about last fifteen years, it has been in a state of pendency.This model Act has not been enacted as law till date.

India being a republic, Public libraries have immense importance in our country. Since these libraries lead to educational empowerment of Public, they help in building an educated society. The country as a whole and its different regions become capable to follow the path of progress. So far in fifteen Indian states Public library and Information law has come into force(**See Annexure I**) Due to non existence of library and information Act Punjab libraries are not functioning in a proper system. Though initially libraries are set up with great enthusiasm but in the absence of a proper constitution, they become sick within a few years and continue functioning in this very state. Presently there are only fourteen District Libraries and one Central State Library in Punjab .Besides these,there are Municipal Libraries, Block Libraries,Panchayat Libraries, Village Libraries and simply reading rooms at some places. These Libraries are not providing service in an organised way.

Public Library service will become satisfactory with the formulation of Punjab Public library and Information law. As a result of this following facilities will be made available:-

- (1) Arrangement for finances for having proper stocks of basic books and for purchasing new books every year.
- (2) Professionally qualified employees as per norms for providing proper library Service.
- (3) Establishment of library Authority in each district and in each town with a Population of more than one lakh for efficient library service.

- (4) One Central Library Advisory committee comprising people, members of government, educationalists and librarians.
- (5) Creating a separate Library Directorate .It is important to mention here that till a separate directorate is created, Directorate of Higher Education will have one post of Deputy Director public libraries,

Village Library Service

It is worth mentioning that total population of Punjab according to 2001 census is 243.59 Lakh and that of villages in 160.96 which comes to be 66.08 of total population. Library Services in these villages are just nominal. It has been seen that only reading rooms have been prepared by the Panchayats in which only two or four newspapers are available. Then as per the targets set by the knowledge commission a fully aware knowledge society comprising villagers cannot be created. But if there is a library and Information law, then establishment of rural libraries in a proper system will be possible and the facilities to be provided to these by the government will become mandatory.

R.R.R.L.F. Kolkata

Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation Kolkata has been established under Ministry of cultural Affairs, Govt of India, New Delhi, Its aim is to nurture Public Libraries in all states of India. This Foundation provides Matching grants under different schemes. Our State Government also gets a matching grant for purchasing books which is available in the ratio of 40:60(40% from state government and 60% from foundation.) But it will be worthwhile to mention that the Foundation provides Matching Grants under various Schemes for mobile library system, buildings, computerisation and for the development of rural libraries benefits of which are not being availed fully by our government because of library and Information Act not being there

Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation has already written to the State government a number of times to formulate the library and Information Act.

National Knowledge Commission.

In orders to face the challenges of 21st Century, It is absolutely necessary to have an educated society National Commission was established in the year 2005 so as

to build a knowledge society. The following recommendations regarding libraries have been made by the knowledge commission.

- (1) Establishment of National Library Commission.
- (2) Census of Libraries
- (3) Bring about changes in the curriculum of library Sciences, training and research.
- (4) Timely assessment of library Staff.
- (5) Establishment of Central Library Funds
- (6) Modernization of Libraries
- (7) Seeking maximum cooperation and support of society and people for the libraries.
- (8) Use of information technology in libraries.
- (9) Getting donations for libraries and maintenance of individual book collections.
- (10) Encouraging public private partnership to improvise library and Information Service.

The State government can get benefits of the above mentioned recommendations made by knowledge commission only after enactment of Public library and Information Act.

Annexure -1

LIST OF STATES HAVING PUBLIC LIBRARY ACT

1. Tamilnadu 1948
2. Andhrapradesh 1960
3. Karnatka 1965
4. Maharashtra 1968
5. West Bengal 1979
6. Manipur 1988
7. Kerala 1989
8. Haryana 1989
9. Mizoram 1993
10. Goa 1994
11. Pondicherry 1996
12. Orissa 2001
13. Gujrat 2002
14. Uttranchal 2005
15. Rajasthan 2006

PUNJAB PUBLIC LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES BILL 2006

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Preamble

An Act to provide for the establishment and operation of an integrated comprehensive and efficient rural and urban public library and information service and the recognition of right to learn including access to information and educational resources in the state for the socio-economic aspirations of the people and the matters connected herewith:

Be-it enacted by the legislature of the Punjab state in 2006 year of the Republic of India as follows :-

PRELIMINARIES :

1. Short title, extent and commencement.

- (i) This Act may be called the Punjab Public Libraries and information services Act 2006
- (ii) It extends to whole of the state of Punjab.
- (iii) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the State Gazette, appoint in that behalf.

2. Definitions :-

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires.

- (a) "Board" means the State Library Advisory Board under the subsection (1) of Section 4
- (b) "Local Library Authority" means concerned Municipal Corporation/Municipal Council/Zila Parishad/Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat.
- (c) "book" means
 - (i) Every volume, part or division of a volume, be it a printed work, or a manuscript or a microfilm or a video/audio cassette or a photograph.
 - (ii) Every sheet of music, map, chart or plan separately printed or lithographed.
 - (iii) Newspapers, periodicals and other such materials.
 - (iv) Electronic Digital resources and services i.e. the internet, e-books, e-journals, CDs, DVDs etc.
- (d) "book service" means reference service, lending of books to members of public libraries, helping groups with books, helping people to know the whereabouts of books and helping them to procure books they need.
- (e) "Departmental Library" means a Library maintained by a Department of the State Government.

- (f) "Public Library" means a library, which permits members of the public to use it for information, reference or borrowing with or without charging fee or subscription.
- (g) "Reference and Information Service" mean assistance from the library staff to the reader or user of the library to enable him to know, locate and consult books and other materials including Internet and to secure from such books and materials, information relevant to his purpose.
- (h) "State" means the state of Punjab.
- (i) Govt. means Govt. of Punjab
- (j) "Central State Library" means "Musafir Memorial Central State Library, Patiala.
- (k) "Subscription Library" means library run on subscription fee from its members.
- (l) "Year" means the financial year.

3. Establishment of Library Service

- (1) The state Government shall establish, maintain and develop comprehensive rural and urban Public Library Service in the State.
- (2) For carrying out the purpose of sub-section (1) the State Government may:-
 - (a) acquire for its Public Libraries sufficient number of books,
 - (b) offer in its Public Libraries adequate books, reference and information service.
 - (c) establish and sponsor organizations and institutions registered library association with a view to promote public interest and participation in the Public Libraries.
 - (d) give adequate library service to all Government departments and offices subordinate or attached to those departments.
 - (e) provide library training facilities to ensure adequately trained personnel for libraries in the state.
 - (f) provide or secure suitable conditions of service for the library

personnel in the state.

- (g) promote co-operation between the public libraries and cultural and educational institutions.
 - (h) promote production and publication of useful literature.
3. The State Government shall discharge its functions and responsibilities under this section through: -
- (a) The State Library Advisory Board.
 - (b) Local Library Authorities.
 - (c) The Co-operating institutions.

4. Composition and Establishment of State Library Advisory Board.

- (1) With effect from such date as the State Government shall, by notification, specify in this behalf. The State Government shall establish, for the purpose of this Act, a board to be known as State Library Advisory Board with headquarters at Chandigarh.
- (2) The Advisory Board shall consist of -
 - (i) The following ex-officio members:
 - (a) The Minister in charge of Public Libraries, who shall be the chairman.
 - (b) The Principal Secretary or Secretary Department of Public Libraries, who shall be Vice Chairman.
 - (c) The Principal Secretary or Secretary Higher Education or his nominee.
 - (d) The Principal Secretary or Secretary secondary/elementary school education or his nominee.
 - (e) The Principal Secretary / Secretary Finance or his nominee.
 - (f) The Principal Secretary / Secretary Culture or his nominee.
 - (g) The Principal Secretary / Secretary Local Bodies or his nominee.
 - (h) The Principal Secretary / Secretary Rural Development and

Panchayat Department or his nominee.

- (i) The Director of Public Instruction (Colleges) Punjab.
- (j) The Director of Public Instruction (Secondary Education) Punjab.
- (k) The Director of Public Instruction (Primary Education) Punjab.
- (l) The Director of Public Libraries Punjab, who shall be member secretary.
- (m) The Chief Librarian, M.M. Central State Library, Patiala.
 - (ii) Seven persons to be nominated by Government who in the opinion of the Government are interested in library development or experts in library services.

The Government will frame rules and regulations governing the appointment of Non-Official members, their tenure, procedure of working of the board and all other related matters.

5. **State Library Directorate:**

- (1) The State Government shall constitute a State Library Directorate which shall be an organ of the Government. The functions of the State Library Directorate shall be as follows:
 - (a) To prepare the annual as well as short or long term plans for libraries in the state in co-operation with the development and other concerned departments of the State Government and of the Central Government.
 - (b) To prepare and publish descriptive and statistical reports on the working of all the public libraries.
 - (c) To arrange or to secure training of various categories of library employees.
 - (d) To conduct inspection and render advisory service to the city, block and other libraries in the state.
 - (e) To administer the system of grants-in-aid to the subscription libraries, and undertake their inspection.
 - (f) To fix boundaries of the operation of government public libraries in the state.

- (2) The Director of the State Library Directorate (herein after called the Director) shall be appointed by the State Government from the panel of senior librarians working in the Government Public Libraries in the State.
- (3) The state Library Directorate shall also have staff with professional qualifications and training.
- (4) The Director shall perform the following duties: -
 - (a) He shall participate in all meetings of the Board and the Committees which may be set up by the Board;
 - (b) He shall be responsible for carrying out such of the recommendations of the Board as have been approved by the State Government;
 - (c) He shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed in the regulations made by the Board.
 - (d) Subject to any rules made by the State Government, the Director-
 - (i) shall be responsible for implementing the programme of work for the year as approved by the Board;
 - (ii) shall administer the grant in-aid to subscription Libraries;
 - (iii) may absorb a subscription Library into the public Library system of the State.
 - (iv) shall decide where city and other libraries in the State are to be set up,

6. State Central Library

The Musafir Memorial Central State Library, Patiala will act as State Central Library.

7. Book Stock of the State Central Library

(1) The stock of books in the State Central Library shall consist of two copies deposited by the publishers in Punjab for the purpose of this Act till suitable amendments to the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867. Under

this Act, every Publisher in Punjab shall be required to deposit two copies of each book published by him within one month of its publication for this purpose. The defaulting publisher (s) will attract punishment as prescribed by the rules to be made for the purpose of this Act. Besides, the stock of State Central Library shall consist of books acquired otherwise by purchase, exchange, gifts and through other resources..

(2) Material in the State Central Library may also include films, film strips, slides, tape and gramophone records, maps, charts, bulletins, photos, and other electronic/digital resources.

8. Mode of Book Acquisition in State Central Library

(1) The secretary, state legislative Assembly shall deliver to the chief Librarian bound volumes of all debates and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

(2) The Head of a department in the State Government shall deliver to the State Central Library all books in that office no longer needed there, but which in the opinion of the chief Librarian will be of use in the State Central Library.

(3) All books and other materials which have to be purchased by the chief Librarian shall only be purchased on the advice of Book Selection Committee to be constituted by the Board.

9. Functions of the State Central Library

(1) The State Central Library will provide leadership in all activities in the field of libraries.

(2) The State Central Library shall have at least two sections viz State Reference Library Section and State lending Library Section.

(3) The functions of the State Reference Library Section shall be as follows :

(a) To maintain a representative collection of reference books and publications such as those mentioned in clause (c) of section 2.

- (b) To procure and maintain in a readily available manner all books, reports, especially, the reports of the Houses of Parliament and the State Legislative Assembly and Central and State government reports together with their indexes as well as other reference materials needed for consultation.
 - (c) To maintain an inventory of all kinds of libraries in the state.
 - (d) To undertake bibliographical work, including special bibliographies for the use of scholars and research workers and to prepare useful catalogues and bibliographies in Punjabi Language.
 - (e) to offer, in co-operation with departmental and research libraries, book and bibliographical service to institutions groups and individuals engaged in higher studies and research.
 - (f) to promote library service for children.
 - (g) to organize Library conferences seminars, workshops and book exhibitions.
 - (h) to provide technical assistance and information to the city and other libraries in the state.
 - (i) to act as the centre of book exchange and inter library lending within and outside the state.
 - (j) to prepare and issue reports on the working of the public libraries operational in the state.
 - (k) shall have the responsibility of acting as a clearing house for all types of information available in different types of formats. They may include information contained in documents and non documents, published and non-published sources. Information must be transmitted to any library in the public library system in the state using computers and telecommunication networks.
- (4) The State Reference Library shall not lend books for use outside the premises of the Library.

- (5) The functions of the State Lending Library section shall be as follow :
- (a) to render lending service to its members.
 - (b) to replenish from time to time the stock of rural and urban public libraries under the system.
 - (c) to give book service to cultural and educational institutions and social welfare organizations.
 - (d) to arrange book exhibitions and book displays on suitable occasion.
 - (e) to publicise its book stock.
 - (f) to publish library report and literature.

10. Chief Librarian

- (1) The Officer incharge of the State Central Library shall be known as the chief Librarian.
- (2) The chief Librarian shall be appointed by the State Government from the state library cadre.
- (3) The chief Librarian shall-
 - (a) be responsible for the management of all the departments of the State Central Library.
 - (b) maintain the stock of books and conduct all approved activities of the State Central Library.
 - (c) advise the board on all technical matters.
 - (d) submit to the Director, a report on the working of state library during the previous financial year. The report shall also include a detailed statement of income and expenditure on account of the State Central Library.
- (4) The chief Librarian shall be subordinate to the Director.
- (5) The chief Librarian shall be assisted by technical and general staff for running the State Central Library.

11. Urban Library System:

There shall be one nodal Library for each district of Punjab situated at district headquarter , all other Libraries in the concerned district shall work in co-ordination with the nodal Library.

12. Town Libraries :

Every Local municipality shall establish and maintain public libraries in area under its jurisdiction.

13. Rural Library System :

Every Panchayat Samiti shall function as a library authority for the area under its jurisdiction and shall establish and maintain public libraries in every village.

14. Finance and Accounts :

- (1) The Government shall create a separate fund to be known as the State Library Fund for smooth functioning of the public library system in the state.
- (2) The State Library Fund shall consists of the following:
 - (a) The State Government shall provide at least Rs. Four crores annually for the purchase of books, equipment and maintenance of libraries in the State.
 - (b) contributions, gifts and grants from individuals or organizations in the country or from abroad.
 - (c) Special grants, which State Government and the Central Government (including grants received through Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata) may make for specified purpose connected with the libraries.

15. Rules and Regulation :

The Government shall make Rules and Regulations under the Act in particular and without prejudice to the generally of the foregoing powers.

