

# Department of Public Libraries

Report of the Committee appointed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in February, 1976 to review the working of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960 and to suggest amendments to the Act.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.**

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## CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1. Sri Gopal Rao Ekbote, Retd., Chief Justice of A. P. .. *Chairman.*
2. Sri Kodati Naryana Rao, President, Andhra Pradesh Public Library Association .. .. .. .. *Member.*
3. Sri K. Raghava Reddy, Retd., Director of Public Libraries .. *Member.*
4. Sri R. Sripathi Naidu, Librarian, Sri Venkateswara University .. *Member.*
5. Sri Vavilala Gopalakrishnaiah, Chairman, Official Language Commission. .. .. .. *Member.*
6. Sri M. Bhoj Reddy, Chairman, City Grandhalaya Samstha, Hyd. .. *Member.*
7. Sri Abdul Mahmood, Retd., Director of Public Libraries .. *Member.*
8. Kalaprapoorna Dr. S. T. Gnanananda Kavi, Maclauron's High School Kakinada .. .. .. *Member.*
9. Deputy Secretary (Panchayati Raj) Department, A.P. Secretariat .. *Member.*
10. Deputy Secretary (H.H. & M.A.) Department, A.P. Secretariat .. *Member.*
11. Joint Secretary (Education) Department, A.P. Secretariat .. *Member.*
12. Sri P. Rajagopala Naidu, M.L.C. .. .. *Member.*
13. Sri C. V. K. Rao, M.L.A. .. .. *Member.*
14. Sri Samson Ramakrishnaiah, Director of Public Libraries .. *Member-Secretary*  
(on leave from  
9-7-1976).
- Sri A. Satyanarayana, Director of Public Libraries .. .. *Member-Secretary.*  
(From 9-7-1976).

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## PREFATORY NOTE

The Honourable Dr. Ch. Devanand Rao,  
Minister for Public Libraries,  
Andhra Pradesh.

Sir,

The Government of Andhra Pradesh in its order G. O. Ms. No. 198 Education dated 25th February 1976, appointed the A. P. P. L. Act Review Committee to go into the working of the A. P. P. L. Act, 1960 and the library administration in Andhra Pradesh for suggesting amendments wherever necessary, to the existing provisions and incorporation of new provisions of the Act, and the rules framed thereunder.

The terms of reference were:

(i) The Committee shall examine the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Public Libraries Act, 1960, the Rules issued thereunder *vis-a-vis* the Maharashtra Act, 1967, and the Mysore (Karnataka) Public Libraries Act, 1965, and suggest suitable amendments wherever necessary.

(ii) The Committee shall also suggest suitable new provisions for incorporation in the Act to carry out the purposes of the Act.

(iii) The Committee shall go into the administration of the Act and the Rules issued thereunder and point out the bottlenecks in implementing them, and suggest remedial measures for the smooth working of the Act and Rules.

(iv) For the purpose of suggesting amendments and new provisions the Committee may interview the persons interested and working in the field of libraries both at Headquarters and in the districts. For this purpose the Committee may tour the districts and other States also if it so desires.

Later on, the Government in their Memo No. 1781 E2/76-1 Edn. dated 5-4-1976 nominated two more persons, representing the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly respectively.

The Committee has the honour to report as follows :

The inaugural meeting of the Committee was held on 20th March, 1976. After the formal inauguration of the Committee by the Minister for Public Libraries, the Committee went straight away into a business session. It decided the procedure to be followed, the places to be visited in and outside the State. It also decided to prepare a comprehensive questionnaire for the purpose of circulating the same as widely as possible in order to elicit the answers from various interested persons, officials, non-officials and Library Associations, etc.,. Accordingly the questionnaire was prepared and was approved by the Committee at its meeting held on 7th March, 1976.

It was printed in English and was cyclo-styled in Telugu. The copies of the questionnaire were sent to persons and various organisations as decided by the Committee. We have received answers to these questionnaire from the individuals and organisations as referred to in Appendix 13 and 10 respectively attached to the report.

The Committee visited places both within as well as outside the State. The Committee decided to visit, in particular, the States of Maharashtra, Madras, and Karnataka because Library Legislation existed in these States. The Committee wanted to see how these Acts in practice were working. The Committee also decided to visit Cochin in Kerala for two reasons:

Firstly the South Zone Library Convention of the Indian Library Association was to be held on 7th May, 1976 at Cochin, where, apart from office bearers of the Indian Library Association, representatives of all the Southern States were expected to be present. We thought we could interview these important persons working in the library field and record their views.

Secondly the convention was to discuss the Kerala Public Library Bill which was pending before the Select Committee of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, a matter of significant importance to the Committee.

We were immensely benefited by these visits. At all places the Director of Public Libraries, the Librarians, the Library Associations not only made all arrangements for our stay, etc., but also took us round the important libraries and acquainted us with the library activities in the said States.

The Committee also visited several places inside the Andhra Pradesh State. We visited the libraries and recorded the views of the persons mentioned in Appendix 12.

The statistics on which we have relied for enquiry have been mostly furnished by the Library Authorities of the State, including the Directorate and we are grateful to them for making the information available.

In particular we wish to record our debt to Shri Samson Ramakrishnaiah, the previous Director of Public Libraries and to Shri A. Satyanarayana, present Director of Public Libraries, our Member-Secretary, and the Superintendent and members of the staff of the Directorate, and the Chairman and Secretary of the City Grandhalaya Samstha who were helpful in organising our work, in obtaining information for us, in co-ordinating statistical material and keeping the notes of our visits and our interviews with various persons.

The notes given by Sri Vavilala Gopala Krishnayya and Sri C. V. K. Rao are appended to the main report.