



LIBRARY COMMITTEE

FIRST REPORT

(FIFTH ASSEMBLY)

Presented to the House on 15th November, 1977

**ASSAM
ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
DISPUR**

INTRO

I, the Chairman, ~~in the presence of the members of the Committee~~ authorised by the Committee, ~~and the members of the Committee~~ report on their behalf present ~~the following~~ report of the Assam Legislative Assembly Library Committee.

The Committee is extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri R. C. Barooah for inaugurating the First meeting of the newly constituted Library Committee on 6th May, 1977 in the Chamber of the Speaker. The Committee was very much benefited by the guidelines given by the Hon'ble Speaker in his inaugural address. The Committee further expresses its gratitude to the Hon'ble Speaker for allowing the Committee to undertake a study tour outside the state which has afforded the Committee ample scope for acquiring first-hand knowledge about the functioning of the other State Legislatures Libraries. The Committee visited the Libraries of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Haryana Vidhan Sabha, Punjab Vidhan Sabha and Parliament including National Library, Calcutta and National Archive, New Delhi from 17th October to 25th October, 1977. The Committee met their counter-parts in the respective State Legislatures and exchanged views with them on common problems.

The Committee places on record its appreciation of the assistance rendered by the officials of the Libraries and other institutions during its on the spot-study tour.

DISPUR :
The 15th November,
1977.

D. N. BORA
Chairman,
Library Committee.

COMPOSITION OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE
(1977-78)

CHAIRMAN :

Shri Debendra Nath Bora.

MEMBERS :

1. Shri K. C. Roy Pradhani
2. Shri Atul Chandra Saikia
3. Shri Badan Chandra Talukdar
4. Shri Jagadish Daś
5. Shri Abdul Jalil Choudhury
6. Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique
7. Shri Dhani Ram Rongpi
8. Smti. Satyabati Goswami

SECRETARIAT :

1. Shri P. D. Barua, Secretary.
2. Shri P. N. Hazarika, Deputy Secretary.
3. Shri K. N. Baisya, Librarian.

I N T R O D U C T O R Y

The Library of the Assam Legislative Assembly was shifted to Gauhati on and from 1st March, 1973 in pursuance of the decision of the Government to shift the capital of Assam from Shillong to Dispur on a temporary measure. With the creation of Meghalaya a full-fledged State in accordance with the provision of the North Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) Act, 1971, the Library became a composite library of state of Assam and Meghalaya. Accordingly the books and records of this composite library have to be apportioned between Assam and Meghalaya. In the mean time the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs intimated the Government of Assam and Meghalaya about the Principles to be followed in apportioning the books and records of the Library.

It is pertinent to mention that the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly and the Hon'ble Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly accompanied by Secretaries and other officials of respective Secretariats considered the principles conveyed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and having discussed the same arrived at a decision to formulate own principle for the purpose of division of the books. Accordingly the principles were laid down in an agreement signed by both the Hon'ble Speakers. The principles were also discussed by the then Library Committee and the present Committee and both the Committees welcome the principles. Arrangements are in progress for the division of the books and records according to the mutually agreed principles and it is hoped that the work of division will be completed during the current year.

CHAPTER—I

1.1 It may be stated that at the time of shifting the capital no accommodation could be found out for housing the library within the Dispur Capital campus. As a result, the library was housed in hired houses at Lachitnagar which was far away from the present Assembly Secretariat. Considerable inconveniences were caused both to the members and officers for extending valuable library services. Considering all these difficulties the then Chairman, Library Committee, Smt. Renuka Devi Barkataki took active interest for getting a library building constructed nearest to the Assembly Secretariat and having her proposal agreed to by the Hon'ble Speaker and Government the present library building was constructed with a record shortest time by the State P. W. D. On completion of the building and shifting of the books from hired houses the library was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Speaker on 14 March, 1975 where the Hon'ble Chief Minister also participated as the Chief Guest.

1.2. The Library building has been planned with provision for future expansion. It may be stated that one of the important criteria of good library is to have a spacious room for carrying study by the members and the Committee pleased to note that the library has two spacious rooms exclusively reserved for the members as well as research scholars who are allowed to carry on research during non-session period.

1.3. At present, the library contains about 16,000 books most of which are acquired very recently to meet the demand of the legislators. The library contains books on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure, Industries, Planning, Co-operative, Education, Land reform and on various other core subjects. The Committee hopes that in future the Assembly Secretariat with the assistance of library Committee will acquire representative books on the aforesaid subjects.

1.4. It may be mentioned that during on the spot study tour the committee visited a number of states and legislative libraries and two institutes of national importance viz. National Library, Calcutta and National Archive, New

Delhi including Parliament Library. The Committee was very much pleased to see the arrangement and facilities extended to the members of the Library Committee by the libraries of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Punjab and Haryana Legislative Assemblies and Lok Sabha. During discussion with the members and officials of these libraries, the Committee came to know that unlike our Assembly Library other libraries purchased book on all subjects. The Committee considers its expedient to acquire books on subjects like other libraries.

RECOMMENDATION

1.5. The Committee therefore recommends that the Assam Legislative Assembly Library should acquire books on different subjects which are considered as authoritative.

1.6. The Committee further recommends that in selecting the books suggestion of members should be given priority.

1.7. During on the spot-study tour the committee came to know from the Directors of the aforesaid institutes that it would be possible for them to supply zaxoxing copies of rare books and documents at a reasonably lower rate. The Committee had the opportunity of having a look in to the copies of the first Assamese Journal, 'Orunoday' in the National Library, Calcutta and expressed its desire to have a copy of each volume of this rare Journal for the Library of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION

1.8. The Committee therefore recommends that step should be taken by the Assembly Secretariat to procure zaxoxing copies of the journal as well as other rare books with immediate effect.

1.9. It may also be stated that the First Conference of the Chairmen of Library Committees was held at New Delhi on 4th and 5th November, 1976 in which many important subjects were discussed. The Conference was attended by all Secretaries of State Legislature and the decisions taken in the Conference were unanimous. Shrimati Swarna Prabha Mahanta the then Chairman of the Library Committee accompanied by Shri P. N. Hazarika, Deputy Secretary,

Assam Legislative Assembly also attended the Conference. The Chairman, Library Committee, Assam Legislative Assembly sent a point on Reference and Reserach Service which was admitted in discussion in the Conference. The same point was also supported by Bihar Vidhan Sabha, Gujrat Assembly and Rajasthan Assembly. The Committee does not like to make any further comment as it was a national concensus. The Committee only hopes that suggestion contained in the decision on this point will be implemented as soon as possible.

1.10. The Conference also adopted a decision about-recovering the value of book / books which were not returned by the members. During the course of discussion with the members of other Library Committees, the Committee learnt that the aforesaid decision was fully implemented by the legislature secretariats. The similar provision was incorporated in the Library Rules of Assam Legislative Assembly, but the recovery of the value of the books, reports, etc. from the defaulting members has not yet been effected. The Committee feels that the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat should also implement the decision.

RECOMMENDATION

1.11. The Committee therefore recommends that Rule 10 of the Assembly Library Rules relating to mode of recovery of value from the members should be implemented as quickly as possible.

1.12. The Committee has also seen the method of preservation of books and documents followed by Parliament Library, National Library, Calcutta and National Archive, New Delhi. The Committee was informed that the concerning officers and librarians were given instruction and practical training for about a fortnight by these institutions. The Committee also learnt that such training was very helpful for the preservation of books.

RECOMMENDATION

1.13. The Committee therefore recommends that the librarian should be deputed to under go training in the method of preservation of books and records in the National Archive.

1.14. The Committee has also learnt that in Parliament, ex-members of Parliament were allowed to borrow

books from the library on furnishing a security of Rs. 200.00. The Committee feels that such practice should be introduced in Assam and ex-members who are desirous of using library books and records may be allowed to borrow books on furnishing the cash security of Rs. 200.00.

1.15. The Committee has also learnt that in some states under the Delivery of Books and Newspapers Act, 1954 one copy of all books published in the state are delivered to the Legislative Assembly Library.

RECOMMENDATION

1.16. The Committee recommends that Government should examine the feasibility of making it obligatory for all the publishers of Assam to deliver one copy of their publication free of cost to the Library, Assam Legislative Assembly.

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