
An Act to provide for the establishment of public libraries in the State of West Bengal and to regulate, guide, control, supervise and to grant recognition to the existing libraries in the State as also to provide for a comprehensive rural and urban library service in the State of West Bengal.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the establishment of public libraries in the State of West Bengal and to regulate, guide, control, supervise and to grant recognition to the existing libraries in the State as also to provide for a comprehensive rural and urban library service in the State of West Bengal.

It is hereby enacted in the Thirtieth Year of the Republic of India, by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows :-

CHAPTER - I

Preliminary

Short title, extent and commencement:

1. (1) This Act may be called the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979.
(2) It extends to the whole of West Bengal.

(3) This section shall come into force at once and the remaining sections shall come into force on such date or dates as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different sections of this Act.

Definitions

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

a) "aided library" means a recognised library receiving aid from the Government, or from a Local Library Authority;

b) "Central Library" means a library declared by the State Government by notification as the Central Library;

c) "Director" means the Director of Public Libraries appointed under section 6;

d) "district" means a revenue district;
e) "District Library" means a library in a district established or recognised by the Government as the District Library;

f) "Government" means the Government of the State of West Bengal;

g) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;

h) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

i) "private library" means a library other than an aided, recognised or a public library;

j) "public library" means a library established or maintained by the Government or by a Local Library Authority;

k) "recognised library" means a library recognised by the Director and declared as such for the purposes of this Act.
CHAPTER - II

The State Library Council

State Library Council and its functions

3. 1) The Government shall constitute a State Library Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) for the purpose of advising the Government on the management of the Central Library, on matters of public library system and on such other matters relating to libraries and library service as may be referred to it.

2) The Council shall, in consultation with Local Library Authorities constituted under Chapter III, also formulate the principles governing the eligibility of private libraries to receive recognition or aid under this Act.

3) The Council shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed.

Composition of the Council

4. 1) The Council shall consist of:-

a) the Minister-in-Charge of Library Services who shall be the Chairman of the Council;
b) four persons to be elected by the members of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from amongst themselves;

c) four persons to be nominated by the Government representing the interests of Universities, the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education and the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education from amongst their members;

d) two representatives of the Bengal Library Association to be nominated by the Executive Committee of the said Association from amongst its constituted members;

e) one representative of the employees of the libraries that will come under the purview of this Act to be elected in the manner prescribed;

f) two persons elected by the Local Library Authorities from amongst the members of such authorities in the manner prescribed;

g) one District Library Officer to be nominated by the Government;

h) One District Librarian to be nominated by the Government;
i) the Secretary to the Government in the Education Department or his nominee;

j) the Director of Public Instructions, West Bengal or his nominee;

k) four persons to be nominated by the Government who in its opinion are experts in library science and library service;

l) the Deputy Director of Public Instruction (Social Education), West Bengal;

m) the Director of Information and Cultural Affairs or his nominee;

n) the Librarian, Central Library;

o) the Librarian of the National Library, Calcutta;

p) the Director who shall be the ex-officio Member, Secretary of the Council.

2) The members, other than the ex-officio members, shall hold office for a period of three years;

Provided that if a nominated or an elected member ceases to hold the position by virtue of which he was so nominated or elected, he shall automatically cease to be a member of the Council.
Functions of the Central Library

5. The Central Library shall, in addition to running a library and a reading room, perform such other functions as may be entrusted to it from time to time by the Government or any other officer authorised by the Government in that behalf.

Appointment and functions of Director

6. The Government shall appoint a Director of Libraries in accordance with the rules made under this Act and the Director shall, subject to the control of the Government, discharge the following functions:-

   a) maintain a register of recognised libraries;

   b) manage the Central Library together with the branches of such library and shall superintend and direct all matters relating to the Central Library;

   c) declare, in accordance with the rules made under this Act, by notification, the names and addresses of the recognised libraries in the State;

   d) superintend and direct all matters relating to the work of all local library authorities under this Act;
e) submit to the Government in accordance with rules made under this Act a report on the working of all libraries under this Act;

f) inspect or cause to be inspected periodically through officer authorised in this behalf all the public and recognised libraries;

g) take steps for removal of defects in the working of any such library as the reports on inspection of the libraries by the officers authorised under clause (f) may disclose and take measures for enforcing the rules as may be made in this behalf and in appropriate cases obtain approval of the Government for derecognition of the library or discontinuance of financial and other assistance to such library in the event of persistent failure to abide by the rules made under this Act or otherwise which in his opinion warrants such action;

h) guide, control and supervise the functioning of the libraries;
1) take appropriate steps for prosecution of persons responsible for any loss or injury caused to any library;

j) perform such other duties and exercise such other powers in accordance with this Act or the rules made thereunder.

**Directorate of Libraries**

7. 1) There shall be a "Directorate of Libraries" to be constituted by the Government for the purposes of this Act with such number of officers and employees as may be prescribed.

2) The officers and staff of the Directorate of Libraries shall be whole-time Government employees and the terms and conditions of their services shall be such as may be prescribed.

**CHAPTER III**

**Local Libraries Authorities**

**Constitution of Local Library Authorities**

8. 1) For the purpose of organizing and administering public libraries in the State, there shall be constituted by the Government Local Library Authority for each district.
2) The Local Library Authority for each district shall consist of:

i) the District Magistrate of the district who shall be the Chairman;

ii) the District Library Officer, who shall function as ex-officio Member-Secretary of the Local Library Authority;

iii) the District Social Education Officer;

iv) two representatives of the Associations of the employees of the different public libraries to be nominated by the Government;

v) two members to be nominated by the Government from amongst the Commissioners of the Municipalities within the district;

vi) two representatives of the district branch of the Bengal Library Association to be nominated by the said Association;

vii) one person to be nominated by the Sabhadhipati from amongst the members of the Zilla Parishad in the district;

viii) two persons nominated by the Government from amongst the members of the Panchayat Samitis in the district.
ix) two persons nominated by the Government, of whom -

a) one shall be a member of the Governing Bodies of recognised libraries in the district and

b) the other from the Advisory Committees, if any, of the libraries under the District Library;

x) a teacher of a College or Polytechnic in the district to be nominated by the Government;

xi) a teacher of a High School or a Higher Secondary School in the district to be nominated by the Government;

xii) a teacher of a Primary School in the district to be nominated by the Government;

xiii) two M.L.A.s of the district to be nominated by the Government;

xiv) the Librarian/Librarians of the District Library/Libraries.
3) The members, other than the ex-officio members, shall hold office for a period of three years:

Provided that if a nominated or an elected member ceases to hold the position by virtue of which he was so nominated or elected, he shall automatically cease to be a member of the Local Library Authority.

Local Library Authority shall be a body corporate

9. Every Local Library Authority shall be body corporate, by the name of the area for which it is constituted shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue or be sued in its corporate name, and shall have the right of acquiring, holding or transferring property, movable or immovable, of entering into contracts and of doing all things necessary, proper or expedient, for the purposes for which it is constituted.

Power of a Local Library Authority

10. A Local Library Authority may -

a) provide suitable lands and buildings for public libraries and also the furniture, materials and conveniences requisite therefor;
b) stock such libraries with books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, works and specimens of art and science, lantern slides, cinema reels and any other thing suitable for the purpose;

c) employ from time to time such officers and staff for such libraries in the manner prescribed;

d) with the previous sanction of the Government, close or discontinue any public library organised or run by it or change the site thereof;

e) recommend to the Director for withdrawal of recognition of, or discontinuance of Government grant to, any public library;

f) accept, with the previous sanction of the Director, any gift of books, or, with the previous sanction of the Government, any other gift or endowment for any purpose connected with its activities;

g) provide for lectures and seminars on topical subjects and the holding of classes; and
h) in general, do everything necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Vesting of properties in Local Library Authorities

11. All property, movable and immovable, acquired or held for the purpose of any public library in any area shall vest in the Local Library Authority of that area.

Regulations by Local Library Authorities

12. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, a Local Library Authority may, with the previous approval of the Government, make regulations generally to carry out the purposes of this Act and, without prejudice to the generality of this power, such regulations may provide for -

a) the admission of persons to public libraries in its area on such conditions and on payment of such fees as it may specify;

b) requiring from persons desiring to use such libraries any guarantee or security against injury to, or misuse, destruction or loss of the property of such libraries;
c) the manner in which the property of such libraries shall be used to ensure the protection of such property from injury, misuse, destruction or loss and

d) authorise its officers and employees to exclude or remove from any such library any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder.

**Power to Government to cancel or modify regulations**

13. 1) If, at any time, the Government is of opinion that any regulation made under this Act by a Local Library Authority should be cancelled or modified either wholly or in part, it shall cause the reasons for such opinion to be communicated to such Local Library Authority and shall specify a reasonable period within such Local Library Authority may make any representation with regard thereto which it may think fit.

2) After receipt and consideration of any such representation, or, if in the meantime no such representation
is received, after the expiry of the specified period, the Government may at any time, by notification cancel or modify such regulation either wholly or in part.

3) The cancellation or modification of a regulation under sub-section (2) shall take effect from such date as the Government may in the said notification direct, or if such date is specified, then from the date of publication of the said notification except as to anything done or suffered or omitted to be done before such date.

Executive Committee

14. A Local Library Authority may appoint an executive committee consisting of such number of its members as it may deem fit and delegate to such committee such of its powers or duties under this Act as may be prescribed.

Preparation of scheme

15. 1) As soon as possible after a Local Library Authority is constituted, and thereafter if required by the Director, every Local Library Authority shall prepare a scheme for establishing libraries and for spreading library service within its area and submit it to the Director for sanction. The Director may sanction it with such modifications and
additions, if any, as he may think fit and the Local Library Authority shall give effect to the scheme as may be sanctioned by the Director.

2) The Director may suo motu or on an application by the Local Library Authority concerned modify any scheme sanctioned under sub-section (1) or replace it by a new scheme.

**District Library Officer and District Librarian**

16. 1) The Government shall appoint a person to be called the District Library Officer on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and he shall generally, subject to the control of the Director direct, superintend and manage the affairs of the libraries in a district.

2) i) The Government shall, in consultation with the Local Library Authority, place a person in charge of a District Library to be called the District Librarian with such qualifications and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed;

ii) The District Librarian shall, subject to the control of the Local Library Authority, manage the affairs of a District Library.
CHAPTER - IV

Finance and Accounts

Library Fund

17. 1) Every Local Library Authority shall maintain a library fund out of which payments under this Act shall be met.

2) There shall be credited to the library fund the following sums -

   a) contributions, gifts and income from endowments made to the Local Library Authority for the benefit of public libraries;

   b) grants which the Government may make for the general maintenance or for any specific purpose connected with libraries or social education;

   c) any amount collected by the Local Library Authority under any rules or regulations made under this Act.

Accounts and audit

18. 1) An account of all assets and liabilities of each Local Library Authority and of all contributions, gifts
and income from endowments, grants made by the Government, any amount collected by the Local Library Authority under any rules made under this Act shall be maintained in the prescribed manner.

2) The account shall be audited annually in such manner and by such officer or authority as may be prescribed. A copy of the audit report shall be submitted to the Government in the prescribed manner.

CHAPTER V

Miscellaneous

Validation of acts.

19. No act of the Council or of a Local Library Authority shall be deemed to be invalid by reason only of the existence of any vacancy, initial or subsequent, or any defect, in the constitution of the Council or the Authority.

Reports and returns.

20. Every Local Library Authority and every person in-charge of a public library shall submit such reports and returns and furnish such information to the Director or any person authorised by him in this behalf as the Director or the person so authorised may, from time to time, require.
Inspection of public libraries

21. The Director or any person authorised by him in this behalf may inspect any public library or any institution attached thereto for the purpose of satisfying himself that the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder are duly carried out.

Penalty.

22. 1) Whoever contravenes any provision of this Act or of any rules made thereunder shall, if no other penalty is provided therefor in any other Act, be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees or if having been previously convicted of such offence is again convicted of an offence under this Act, with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

2) No court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Act except on a written complaint made by the Director or by any person authorised by the Director in this behalf.

Power to make rules.

23. 1) The Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the matters which may be or are required to be prescribed or made by rules.

3) All rules made under this section shall, as soon as may be, after they are made, be laid before the House of the State Legislature for 14 days shall be subject to such modification as the State Legislature may make during the session in which they are so laid.


24. The Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, shall, in its application to the State of West Bengal, be amended as follows:

1) for clause (a) of the first paragraph section 9, the following clause shall be substituted:

"a) in any case, within one calendar month after the day on which any book shall first be delivered out of the press, three such copies and";
2) in section 11, for the first paragraph, the following paragraph shall be substituted:

"Out of the three copies delivered pursuant to clause (a) of the first paragraph of section 9 of this Act, one copy shall be sent to the Central Library, and the remaining copies shall be disposed of in such manner as the Government may from time to time determine."


West Bengal Act XXXIX of 1979

Whereas it is expedient to amend the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979, for the purposes and in the manner hereinafter appending;

And whereas the Legislative Assembly of the State of West Bengal is not in session and the Governor is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action;

The Governor is pleased, in exercise of the power conferred by clause (1) of article 213 of the Constitution of India, to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the West Bengal Public Libraries (Amendment) Ordinance, 1982.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Ordinance.
Amendment of Section 2 of West Bengal Act XXXIX of 1979

2. In section 2 of the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), -

1) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted:

(aa) "Calcutta Metropolitan Library" means the District Library in Calcutta declared by the State Government as such;"

West Bengal XXXIII of 1951

2) after clause (b), the following clause shall be inserted:

(bb) "Corporation" means the Corporation of Calcutta as constituted under the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1951 ;'

3) in clause (c), for the words "Public Libraries", the word "Library Services" shall be substituted;

4) for clause (d), the following clause shall be substituted:

'(d) "district" means a district of West Bengal and includes Calcutta as defined in the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1951 ;'
5) after clause (d), the following clauses shall be inserted:

'(dd) "District Librarian" means the person placed in charge of a district Library to be called the District Librarian under clause (i) of subsection (2) of Section 16, and includes the Librarian of the Calcutta Metropolitan Library;

(ddd) "District Library Officer" means the person appointed to be called the District Library Officer under sub-section (1) of section 16;'

6) after clause (f), the following clause shall be inserted:

'(ff) "library" includes an aided library, District Library, public library, or recognised library, but does not include a private library;'

7) in clause (j), after the words, "Local Library Authority", the words, "and Includes a sponsored library" shall be added;

8) after clause (k), the following clause shall be added:

1) "sponsored library" means a library declared by the State Government as such."
Amendment of Section 6.

3. In section 6 of the principal Act, for the words "Director of Libraries", the words "Director of Library Services" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 7

4. In section 7 of the principal Act,
   a) in the marginal note, for the word 'Libraries', the words "Library Service" shall be substituted;
   b) in sub section (1), for the words, "Directorate of Libraries" the words "Directorate of Library Services" shall be substituted.
   c) in sub-section (2), for the words "Directorate of Libraries", the words "Directorate of Library Services" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 8

5. In sub-section (2) of section 8 of the principal Act,-
   a) in clause (i), after the words "of the district", the words, "or, in the case of Calcutta, the Director," shall be inserted;
b) in clause (v), the following words shall be added at the end:

"or, in the case of Calcutta, from amongst the Councillors of the Corporation";

c) in clause (vii), the following words shall be added at the end:

"or, in the case of Calcutta, to be nominated by the Mayor of the Corporation from amongst the Councillors of the Corporation";

d) in clause (viii), the following words shall be added at the end:

"or, in the case of Calcutta, from amongst the persons interested in library services";

e) for clause (ix), the following clause shall be substituted:

'(ix) two persons nominated by the Government from amongst the members of the managing committees of public libraries";

f) for clause (xiv), the following clause shall be substituted:

"(xiv) the Librarians of District Libraries."

(This Ordinance was later adopted in the Legislative Assembly as the West Bengal Public Libraries (amendment) Act.)
The West Bengal Public Libraries (Amendment) Act, 1985

(Passed by the West Bengal Legislature)

Assent of the Governor was first published in the Calcutta Gazette, Extraordinary, of the 9th October, 1985.

An Act to amend the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979.

West Ben. Act. XXXIX of 1979

Whereas it is expedient to amend the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979, for the purposes and in the manner hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted in the Thirty-sixth Year of the Republic of India, by the Legislature of West Bengal, as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be called the West Bengal Public Libraries (Amendment) Act, 1985.

Amendment of long title of West Bengal Act XXXIX of 1979

2. In the long title of the West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for the words "control, supervise and to grant recognition to the existing libraries in the State", the words "control and supervise the libraries" shall be substituted.
Amendment of preamble

3. In the preamble to the principal Act, for the words "control, supervise and to grant recognition to the existing libraries in the State", the words "control and supervise the libraries" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 2

4. In section 2 of the principal Act, -

a) clauses (a) and (b) shall be omitted;

b) for clause (bb), the following clause shall be substituted:

West Bengal Act LIX of 1980

'(bb) "Corporation" means the Calcutta Municipal Corporation established under the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act, 1980;'

c) for clause (d), the following clause shall be substituted:

'(d) "District" means a district of West Bengal and includes Calcutta as defined in the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act, 1980;'

d) clause (dd) shall be omitted;
e) clause (e) shall be omitted;

f) for clause (ff), the following clause shall be substituted:

'(ff) "Library" means a public library and includes the State Central Library;'


g) for clause (j), the following clause shall be substituted:

'(j) "public library" means a library open to the public and——

i) established or maintained by the Government,
or

ii) declared by the Government as a sponsored public library under section 16A;'

h) after clause (j), the following clause shall be inserted:

'(jj) "State Central Library" means a library declared by the State Government as such;'

i) clauses (k) and (l) shall be omitted.

Amendment of section 3

5. For Sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 3 of the principal Act, the following sub-sections shall be substituted:

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"(1) The Government shall constitute a State Library Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) for the purpose of advising the Government on the management of the State Central Library, on matters relating to policies and programmes for the development and management of public libraries and public library system and on such other matters as may be referred to it.

(2) The Council shall advise the Government on any scheme prepared by a Local Library Authority under section 15 and also on the principles governing the aid to a library under this Act."

Amendment of section 4

6. In section 4 of the principal Act, -

1) In sub-section (1), -

   a) in clause (e), for the words "one representative", the words "two representatives" shall be substituted;

   b) for clause (h), the following clause shall be substituted: -

   "(h) one Librarian of a District Library to be nominated by the Government;";
c) for clause (m), the following clause shall be substituted:

"(m) the Director of Culture or his nominee;";

d) after clause (m), the following clause shall be inserted:

"(mm) the Director, of Adult Education or his nominee;";

e) for clause (n), the following clause shall be substituted:

"(n) the Librarian, State Central Library ;";

2) in sub-section (2), for the words "three years;", the words "four years:" shall be substituted.

Substitution of new section for section 5

7. For section 5 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted:

Functions of the State Central Library

5) The State Central Library shall perform such functions and discharge such duties as may be prescribed."
Amendment of section 6

8. In section 6 of the principal Act, -

a) in clause (a), for the word "recognised", the "public" shall be substituted;

b) for clause (b), the following clauses shall be substituted:

"(b) manage the State Central Library and the public libraries established or maintained by the Government and superintend and direct all matters relating to such libraries;

(bb) supervise and control, subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, all other public libraries;"

c) for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted:

"(c) declare, by notification, from time to time the names and addresses of the public libraries in the State;"

d) for clause (d), the following clause shall be substituted:
"(d) superintend and direct all matters relating to the work of all Local Library Authorities under this Act and take such steps as he may consider necessary, if any action taken by a Local Library Authority is in violation of any direction of the Government or is in contravention of any provision of this Act or the rules made thereunder.");

e) after clause (d), the following clause shall be inserted :-

"(dd) disapprove any action or decision of a Local Library Authority, if such action violates any direction of the Government or such decision is inconsistent with the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, and report the fact of such disapproval in the subsequent meeting of the Council;");

f) for clause (e), the following clause shall be substituted :-

"(e) submit to the Government and to the Council the annual report and other reports from time to time on the working of all public libraries and Local Library Authorities ";
g) in clause (f), the words "and recognised" shall be omitted;

h) after clause (h), the following clause shall be inserted:

"(hh) convene the meetings of the Council, keep the records of the proceedings thereof and report to the Council the decisions of the Government on all matters relating to public libraries and public library system;";

Amendment of section 8

9. In section 8 of the principal Act, -

1) in sub-section (2), -

a) for clause (i), the following clause shall be substituted:

"(i) the District Magistrate of the district (other than Calcutta) or his nominee not below the rank of Sub-divisional Officer or, in the case of Calcutta, the Director, shall be the Chairman;";

b) for clause (iv), the following clause shall be substituted:
"(iv) two representatives of the employees of
different public libraries to be elected
from amongst themselves in the manner pres-
cribed;";

c) in clause (x), after the words "a teacher of", the
words "a University or" shall be inserted;

2) in sub-section (3), for the words "three years",
the words "four years" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 10

10. In section 10 of the principal Act, -

a) after clause (b), the following clause shall be
inserted :-

"(bb) maintain a register of the public libraries
in the district and inspect or cause to be
inspected all such libraries ;";

b) for clause (c), the following clause shall be subs-
stituted :-

"(c) employ from time to time the officers and
staff of the public libraries in such manner
and on such terms and conditions as may be
prescribed ;";
c) after clause (f), the following clause shall be inserted:

"(ff) implement the decisions of the Government and submit to the Government the annual report and other reports from time to time on the working of the public libraries and the public library system in the district;"

Insertion of new section 10A

11. After section 10 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted:

"Control and supersession of Local Library Authority

10A. (1) If, at any time, the Government is of opinion that a Local Library Authority has failed to perform its functions or has exceeded or abused any of the powers conferred on it by or under this Act or the rules made thereunder the Government may communicate the particulars thereof to that Local Library Authority asking it to remedy such failure, excess or abuse or to submit to the Government a satisfactory explanation for such failure, excess or abuse, within such time as may be fixed by the Government and if the
Local Library Authority does not remedy such failure, excess or abuse or submit the explanation to the Government within the time so fixed or if the explanation submitted by the Local Library Authority is not found satisfactory, the Government may, in consultation with the Council, by order supersede the Local Library Authority for such period as the Government may consider expedient:

Provided that such supersession shall not be for a period of more than one year and such period may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended by a period not exceeding one year.

2) When a Local Library Authority is superseded under sub-section (1), then, with effect from the date of the order of supersession,

a) all the members of the Local Library Authority shall be deemed to have vacated their offices;

b) the Government may appoint an Administrator or an Ad-hoc Committee consisting of such persons and in such manner as the Government may think fit, and thereupon, the
Administrator or the Ad-hoc Committee, as the case may be, shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Local Library Authority.

3) The Government may, at any time during the period of supersession, reconstitute the Local Library Authority in accordance with the provisions of section 8. and upon such reconstitution of the Local Library Authority, the Administrator or the Ad-hoc Committee, as the case may be, shall cease to exist and the Local Library Authority shall function in accordance with the provisions of this Act."

Amendment of section 12

12. In clause (a) of section 12 or the principal Act, the words "and on payment of such fees" shall be omitted.

Substitution of new section for section 14

13. For section 14 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted:
"Committee or Committees of Local Library Authority.

14. A local Library Authority may appoint a committee or committees consisting of such of its members as it may deem fit to assist the Local Library Authority in carrying out the purposes of this Act."

Amendment of section 15

14. In sub-section (1) of section 15 of the principal Act, for the words "may sanction", the words 'may, in consultation with the Council, sanction'; shall be substituted.

Insertion of section 15A

15. After section 15 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted:--

"Power to give direction to the Local Library Authority.

15A. The Government may, from time to time, give such direction to a Local Library Authority as it may consider necessary for the purposes of this Act."
Substitution of new section for section 16

16. For section 16 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted: -

"District Library Officer.

16. The Government shall appoint a person to be called the District Library Officer on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed. The District Library Officer shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed."

Insertion of new section 16A

17. After section 16 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted: -

"Sponsored public library.

16A. (1) Any library (other than a public library and the State Central Library) functioning as a district library or sub-divisional library or town library or area library or rural library or primary unit library and receiving aid from the District Magistrate or the District Social Education Officer or the District Library Officer or
any other officer of the Government towards the payment of salaries of its employees or for any other purpose, may be declared by the Government as a sponsored public library and thereupon the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder shall apply to such library.

Explanation. - For the purposes of this sub-section, a "district library", "sub-divisional library", "town library", "area library", "rural library" or "primary unit library" shall respectively mean a library functioning as a district library, sub-divisional library, town library, area library, rural library or primary unit library in a district, by whatever name called, and recognised by the Government as such.

(2) Any library which is not a public library or the State Central Library may, on application in the prescribed manner, be declared by the Government as a sponsored public library and thereupon the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder shall apply to such library.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (1) and (2), the Government may, if it considers necessary so to do, sponsor any library and declare it to
be a sponsored public library and thereupon the pro-
visions of this Act and the rules made thereunder
shall apply to such library.

Explanation.- For the purpose of this sub-section, a lib-
rary established under a scheme referred to in sec-
tion 15 shall be deemed to be a sponsored public
library.

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(4) Any library, not being a public library, registered
or deemed to have been registered under the West
Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961, or any lib-
rary, not being a public library, established or mana-
ged by any society or association of individuals,
registered or deemed to have been registered under
that Act shall, on being declared to be a sponsored
public library, cease to be a library registered or
deemed to have been registered under that Act or a
library established or managed by such society or
association of individuals and thereupon the provi-
sions of this Act and the rules made thereunder shall
apply to such library.

(5) The sponsored public libraries shall be managed
in the manner prescribed.
(6) The employees of the sponsored public libraries, as approved by the District Magistrate or the District Social Education Officer or the District Library Officer or the District Advisory Council for Social Education or the Director of Public Instruction or the Local Library Authority or the Director of Library Services, shall be deemed to be the employees of the Local Library Authority and the terms and conditions of service of such employees shall be such as may be prescribed.

**Insertion of new section 17A**

18. After section 17 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted:

"Government grant.

17A. The Government may from time to time make such grant to a Local Library Authority or a library for management (including payment of salaries of employees), maintenance, improvement and development of library services or for any other purpose as it may think fit.

Power to Local Library Authority or library to incur expenditure.

17B. A Local Library Authority or a library
may incur expenditure out of the library fund for carrying out the purposes of this Act;

Provided that no expenditure shall be incurred by a local Library Authority or a library without the prior approval of the Government for any purpose other than a purpose for which a grant has been made by the Government under section 17A."

Amendment of section 23

19. In sub-section (1) of section 23 of the principal Act, for the words "may, by notification," the words "may, in consultation with the Council, by notification," shall be substituted.