

Soon, public library in almost every village

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

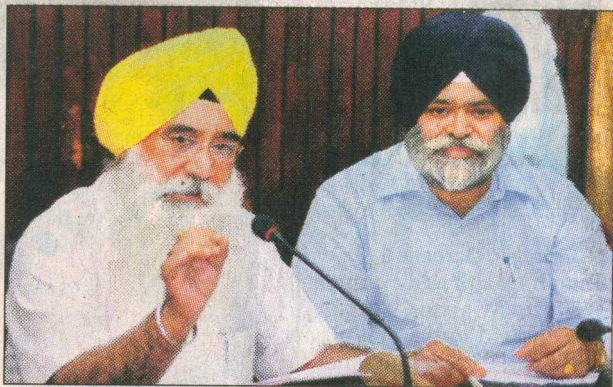
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In an effort to revive people's reading habits, the Punjab Government plans to set up 12,603 public libraries in almost all villages of the state. These libraries will be established in a phased manner.

A committee headed by Education Minister Sewa Singh Sekhwan has approved the "Shabad Parkash Punjab Public Library and Information Services Bill: 2011."

At its meeting here today, the Education Minister said the government planned to set up a state central library, 22 district libraries, 141 block-level libraries, 157 town libraries and 12,282 village libraries in a phased manner.

At present, Punjab has a state library and 14 district libraries. Barnala, Ludhiana, Moga, Muktsar, Nawanshahr, Tarn Taran, Fazilka, and Pathankot dis-



Education Minister SS Sekhwan in Jalandhar. A Tribune photo

tricts will also have their district libraries.

Sekhwan said an eight-member core committee under the chairmanship of Dr DS Dillon, Chairman, Punjab School Education Board, had been constituted to prepare a public library development plan and the budget estimates.

Other members of the committee are: Satnam Singh Manak, Executive Editor, Ajit, Dr Gurbhajan Gill, president, Punjabi Sahit Academy, Ludhiana, Dr Jag-

tar Singh, president, Punjab Library Association, Dr Balbir Kaur, Director, Languages Department, Punjab, Kulbir Kaur, librarian, MM Central State Library, Patiala, HS Chopra, librarian, GNDU Library, Amritsar, and Sukhdev Singh, librarian, Khalsa College, Amritsar.

He said Dr Dillon had been appointed the nodal officer to pursue the "Shabad Parkash Punjab Public Library and Information Services Bill: 2011" with the government.