

To promote reading, schools told to digitise library data

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The Education Department in an official communication to the District Education Officers (DEOs) and principals has underlined that a majority of the schools were “neither circulating library books nor promoting reading habits among students in any way”.

Reacting to the fact that yellow pages in a large number of libraries were gathering dust, a circular has been issued to all schools to upload the data of their books on the department website.

“We are preparing a databank of the available texts in terms of numbers and titles. The exercise has been started to have an updated overview of the existing resources and the use of library books. To date, as many as 1,085 schools have uploaded their data on the website. We expect the data from remaining over 4,000 government middle, high and senior secondary schools before the month end,” said a senior Education Department official.

The development fol-



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lowed a surprise visit by Education Secretary (Schools) Krishan Kumar to Government Senior Secondary School, Paddi Sura Singh (Hoshiarpur), in June. The school had a Class XII student, Jasbir Joshi, who has published a poetry book titled ‘Mere Armaan’. Almost all students of the school had a copy of it. However, library books were lying untouched in the school.

Like all schools, the library here had an impressive collection of books on the lives of Gurus, freedom fighters,

folk tales and science. A pack of books was spread on the table and students were asked to pick one of their choice. They were asked to prepare a two-page note after reading the books. Krishan Kumar said “the response from some of the students was quite impressive”.

Following this, the department sent out a formal communication asking schools to organise similar book fairs. After this, schools communicated that results were showing interesting and positive side of their students.

