

**No. 22-1/2019-PO
Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Posts
(PO Division)**

Dak Bhawan, Sansad Marg
New Delhi-110 001

Dated: 9th April, 2020

To

All CPMsG/ All PMsG
Director RAKNPA/ All PTCs

Subject: Instructions regarding posting of Registered Newspapers in view of disruption caused by Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown

This is regarding disruption caused in the country due to sudden outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent nationwide lockdown. Like various other services in the country, postal services have also been affected from it.

2. As per the feedback received from the Circles, posting of Registered Newspapers has been affected after the lockdown imposed by the Central Government in view of outbreak of Covid-19 and the situation is likely to persist in upcoming days. During this lockdown, following four major scenarios are likely to emerge in respect of Registered Newspaper Service:

- (i) The Publisher has published/ printed its Newspaper/ Magazine in time but could not post the same on the specified dates of posting due to lockdown.
- (ii) The publisher could not publish/ print its newspaper/ magazine according to its normal schedule, and may issue a combined edition of all the unpublished/ unprinted editions on a later date.
- (iii) The publisher could not publish/ print its newspaper/ magazine according to its prescribed schedule, and may issue all the unprinted editions together but separately on a later date.
- (iv) The publisher could not publish/ print its newspaper/ magazine according to its prescribed schedule, and may skip the publishing/ printing of some of its unprinted editions and print/ publish new editions subsequently.

3. In case of any of the above mentioned scenario, the publisher has to take following remedial action as per the extant rules:

- (i) The publisher has to apply within prescribed timeline to the concerned PMG for change of dates, as is provisioned in updated Rules 30 (1) (d) of Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 mentioned in the Consolidated Rulings 2008.
- (ii) While doing so, the publisher has also to ensure that there is not more than 31 days gap between two consecutive editions of Registered Newspaper, as is mentioned in Section 9 of Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

However, in the extant scenario of unprecedented lockdown, there is possibility that the publishers may not be able to abide by both the above mentioned conditions, and in that case, they may not be eligible to post their editions as per the existing rules.

4. In view of the above, Department has decided to provide **one time relaxation** in respect of both the conditions as specified above in para 4 (i) & (ii), and all the Circles are directed to adhere to the following guidelines:

- (i) All the publishers may be provided a grace period with respect to their editions scheduled to be published for 3 months i.e. March, April & May of 2020. This implies moratorium for not publishing their editions for the above mentioned 3 months. The publishers will be allowed to publish their newspapers/ magazines by combining multiple editions, skipping some editions, etc as per their convenience upto the month of June, 2020. This arrangement will enable the publisher to address all the issues as mentioned in para 2 above.
- (ii) All the publishers may be allowed to post their issues at any date upto June-2020 in coordination with the office of posting. There is no need to take approval of the concerned PMG for the same.
- (iii) Circles, Regions and Divisions may also change Office of Posting keeping in view availability of staff and arrangement of safety precautions including sanitization like fumigation etc.
- (iv) This will be a **temporary arrangement** and be in force in respect of posting/ publishing of Registered Newspapers for the 3 months i.e. March, April & May 2020 only, and Registered Newspapers to be printed/ published for the above three months may be posted **upto June 2020**.

5. These instructions should be brought to the notice of all Managers/ Publishers/ Proprietors of Registered Newspapers as well as staff of booking as well as delivery Post Offices in the country.

6. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

AAhmed

9/4/20

(Adnan Ahmed)

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GM, CEPT Mysure for uploading the same on India Post website.