

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 524
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024)**

‘PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF PERIODICAL ACT 2003’

524. SHRIMATI MALA ROY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any suggestion on the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act 2023 from the publishes and/or stakeholders for any amendment/ replacement in section(s);
- (b) if so, the details of proposals of the Government to reduce the penalties and therefore cancellations/suspension to periodicals particularly for small and tiny newspapers publishing from rural areas of the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allow one time opportunities to all publishers and stakeholders of periodicals to update all documens with Press Registrar General those who have failed to file annual return and falls under discontinuation but intend to publish regularly thereof; and
- (d) if so, the proposal therein and if not, the reasons behind not to consider tiny, small newspapers/periodicals and little magazines under special category section of the present act thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS {SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR}

(a) and (b): The Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 (PRP Act, 2023) has been enacted to replace the existing Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (PRB Act, 1867) from the date of its operationalization. Consultation with stakeholders with regard to the Act was undertaken in November - December, 2019. The PRP Act, 2023 substantially decriminalizes the penal provisions under the PRB Act, 1867 by replacing them with financial penalties.

(c) and (d): The publishers can pay due penalties and file pending annual statements at any time. They can also submit requests for reactivation of publication in defunct list, republishing of publication or ceasing of publication.
