

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4150**  
**(TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025)**

**‘PRESS SEWA PORTAL’**

**4150. SMT. POONAMBEN HEMATBHAI MAADAM:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to remove the procedural hurdles for the registration process of newspapers and periodicals;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the manner in which the new system differ from the previous registration system;
- (c) The key features of the Press Sewa Portal; and
- (d) whether there are any measures in place to address grievances faced by users while registering on the Press Sewa Portal and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING; AND  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; {DR. L MURUGAN}

- (a) The Government has implemented the Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Act, 2023 and Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Rules 2024 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 after repealing the old PRB Act. The new Act has removed multiple approvals that were required as per the old Act. These approvals were at different stages for starting a

newspaper/printed publication in India. It has therefore immensely benefitted the publishers especially the small and medium newspapers/publishers.

The new PRP Act provides for the use of digital technologies for the registration of newspapers/periodicals and accordingly, Press Sewa Portal, the single window online platform has been developed for the purpose.

(b) The enactment of PRP Act, 2023 and the subsequent development of Press Sewa Portal marks a major shift from the previous manual processes of registration of newspapers. As the Registration process is online, the chances for discrepancies in the application will be drastically reduced, thereby facilitating faster processing of applications. The status of application is updated at all stages and the same is informed to the applicant through SMS and email thereby ensuring transparency and eliminating delays due to miscommunication.

(c) The Press Sewa Portal is structured into multiple modules, each designed to streamline specific aspects of newspaper and periodical registration compliance which, inter alia, includes the following features:

- Online Application for New Registration/New Edition of an existing newspaper.
- Online Application for Revision of particulars of Newspapers/Periodicals.
- Online Application for Ownership Transfer.
- Online Application for Ceasing of Newspapers/Periodicals.
- Online Application for Authentication of self-declaration for Newsprint Import.
- Uploading online electronic copy of Newspapers for regularity compliance.
- E-Sign authentication for District Magistrates.
- Automated notifications to Specified Authorities for pending applications.
- E-sign based Certificate Generation.
- QR + hash-coded digital certificates.

- Online Submission of Annual Statement.
- Automated penalty payments and fee collection.
- Real-time updates of financial records.
- Complete digitization of old registration record.
- Provisions for Legal and Regulatory Compliances under PRP Rules.
- Circulation Verification through Desk Audit.

(d) The Press Registrar General of India has implemented multiple mechanisms for addressing technical issues, registration delays, and compliance related concerns as given below:

- Dedicated Telephone Helpline to address the issues of Publishers.
- Dedicated Email to receive/resolve the grievances.
- Regular online VC Meetings with the publishers to address technical issues.
- Regular Physical Meetings with the publishers by the Customer Relations Executives.

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