

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1476**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH JULY, 2025/ SARVANA 7, 1947 (SAKA)

AMENDMENT IN FCRA RULES

1476. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has amended the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) rules to prohibit NGOs receiving foreign funding from publishing newsletters or any news-related content;

(b) whether such NGOs are now required to obtain a certificate from the Registrar of Newspapers for India affirming that they do not circulate news content and if so, the rationale for such certification;

(c) whether this move may impact the freedom of expression and dissemination of public-interest information by civil society organizations; and

(d) whether the Ministry consulted stakeholders or issued public clarifications regarding the scope of the term “news content” and mechanisms for grievance redressal under the amended norms?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

(a): The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2025, notified on 26th May 2025, do not introduce any new prohibition on NGOs receiving foreign contribution from publishing newsletters or news-related content. The prohibitions concerning news and current affairs already exist under Section 3(1)(g) and 3(1)(h) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act,

2010. The recent amendments are procedural in nature and are intended to improve application processing efficiency.

(b): Under the amended Rules, applicants whose Memorandum of Association or trust deed includes publication-related objectives—or who are engaged in publication activities—are now required to submit the following documents:

- a) an undertaking from the Chief Functionary affirming compliance with Section 3(1)(g) of the Act; and**
- b) where registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), a “Not a Newspaper” certificate from the RNI.**

These documents were earlier sought at a later stage, but are now required to be submitted at the initial stage of filling the application to ensure procedural clarity and to streamline and expedite application processing.

(c): The amendments do not impose any new restriction on NGOs. They are intended solely to ensure compliance with the existing provisions under Section 3 of the FCRA, 2010, which prohibit entities engaged in the production or broadcast of news and current affairs content, or individuals associated with such entities, from receiving foreign contribution. The procedural changes introduced are limited to verifying such compliance at

the application stage and do not alter the substantive legal position under the Act.

(d): The amendments were introduced following internal consultations and in response to operational challenges and stakeholder feedback regarding delays. The terminology used is consistent with the existing legal framework under the FCRA. The grievance redressal mechanisms under the FCRA framework continue to remain available.
