**E-CONTENT**

**MJMC,  SEM-IV, PAPER-XIII (CC- 401)**

**Topic : GOVERNMENT MEDIA ORGANISATIONS *(*RNI *)***

**Date : 11-02-2020, TIME : 1.00 P.M.-2.00 P.M.**

**PREPARED BY : AMIT KUMAR**

**RNI (REGISTRAR OF NEWSPAPERS OF INDIA)**

The government body was setup on 1st July, 1956. It was established as per the recommendations of the First Press Commission Report in 1953. It further involved the amendment of the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867 and included the guidelines and functions of RNI. RNI has been responsible for carrying out both statutory and non-statutory functions. Under Statutory Functions, the following jobs are covered: a) It compiles and maintains a “Register of Newspapers” which has all the important details about the newspapers. b) It also issues a certificate of registration for a valid declaration. c) It annually reviews the financial statements sent by the publishers of newspapers as per Section 19-D of the Press and Registration of Books Act. d) Informing the District Magistrates about availability of titles, to intending publishers for filing declaration; e) It ensures that newspapers are published as per the guidelines and rules of Press and Registration of Books Act 1867. f) It also verifies the circulation claims made by the publishers in their annual statements. g) It submits to the Government on or before 31st December each year a report containing all available information and statistics about the press in India.

The following items fall under the non-statutory functions:

1. Formulation of Newsprint Allocation Policy: RNI is responsible for developing the guidelines and issuing eligibility certificate to the newspapers for importing newsprint. It further helps in the import of any machinery etc., required for the printing process.
2. b) Title Verification As per the provisions of PRB Act of 1867, RNI is also responsible for the verification of the titles of the newspapers. It is done to ensure that no two newspapers share the same titles of same language of different publication houses. In case of foreign titles, a valid license of agreement is to be presented if the titles hold a similarity. The Magistrate has the sole authority of informing the publication houses to revise the titles upon verifying from the Registrar of the Press.
3. c) Annual statements Under Section 19(D) under PRB Act (1867), all the publishers are to submit an annual statement under the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules, 1956. The penalty for not submitting the financial details is in the form of fine of Rs 500/- under Section 19(K) of the PRB Act. Incase if the publisher submits incorrect information or false information then as per Section 14 of the PRB act (1867), a fine of Rs.2000/- will be imposed along with imprisonment for a term that can extend upto 6 months. In annual statement the publisher includes the following details: 1. Number of published copies per day (Average). 2. The average number of copies distributed (sales, complementary etc). The publisher who publishes over 2000 copies has to countersign against description chartered accountant or qualified article tester. Small newspapers with subscription of less than 2000 copies, have been exempted from this rule. Educational institutions and religious committees have also been exempted from this rule of RNI, who use these newspapers for their internal communication rather than for sale. According to the rules press registrar has the right to check any description submitted by any publisher.