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Government announces 3 Months extension for FCRA registration

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The Government of India has announced that there will be an extension on Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration for NGOs. The date has been extended till March 31, 2022, for institutions that had to apply for it by December 2021.

The home ministry has made the FCRA registration mandatory for NGOs that will need to obtain and utilise funds from abroad. The central government has extended the deadline four times since the passing of the FCRA amendment Act in September 2020. In the view of public interest, government has decided that the validity of the FCRA registration certificate to be up till March 31 of 2022 or until the renewal application is disposed of, whichever is earlier.

The government emphasised that if the NGOs have applied to for the renewal of certificate between September 29 2020 & March 31 2022, according to the Rule 12 of the foreign contribution Regulation Rules, then they shall be able to avail these benefits.

The notice also states that if the home ministry refuses the application for renewal of FCRA certificate. Then the validity of the certificate will be considered to have expired on the day the application was rejected. The institution shall not be able to receive or utilise any of the foreign funds which were sent to it. However, the institutions will have the right to appeal against this decision.

The Home ministry stated that almost 6,000 NGOs have lost their licenses, including IIT Delhi, Jamia Milia Islamia, Oxfam Trust India, Indian Medical Association etc. These institutions' licenses expired in the previous month, and they have not applied for the renewal of FCRA license. The Ministry has stated that it gave numerous reminders to these institutions to apply before the deadline, but still many institutions didn't comply.

A total of 22,762 FCRA- registered NGOs were operational till 31 December 2021 but on 1st January 2022 this number became 16,829 as 5,933 NGOs failed to comply and have ceased to operate.



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