

Government of India
Ministry of Communications & IT
Department of Posts
(GDS Section)

To
All Heads of Postal Circles [By Name]

No. 17-103/2007-GDS

Dated: 06 Jan 2012

FILLING UP OF VACANT POSTS OF GRAMIN DAK SEVAKS

Postal Joint Council of Action has taken up the issue of filling up of all vacant post of GDS as one of the strike issues with the Department. While the Department has periodically reviewed the existing instructions on the issue and reiterated the same to all concerned from time to time in the past, it appears that the instructions issued on the subject are not being meticulously followed in the field. The need for timely action to initiate action to fill up the vacant posts and adherence to guidelines for substitute and provisional arrangements need to be realized in right perspective in the overall operational interest by all concerned. Keeping this in view, the gist of the instructions/guidelines on the issue is, therefore, again circulated for the information and strict compliance as under:-

- (a) Vacant posts of GDS BPM in Branch Post Offices with a single establishment were allowed to be filled up straight away by the Divisional Head to ensure basic postal services and facilities in the rural areas through the existing Branch Post Office vide Para 2(i) of DG Posts letter No. 17-103/2007-GDS dated 14.07.2009. It was further provided in Para 2(ii) of the letter *ibid* that the vacant post of GDS in Branch Post Offices with two or more hands may be filled up on the basis of triennial review already carried out. However, if prescribed workload and financial parameters as prescribed for opening of a Branch Post Office are not fulfilled but the posts are required to be filled up for operational reasons, then the approval of Chief PMG will be required with concurrence of Circle IFA. In respect of category of GDS BPM, this power earlier vested with Chief PMG was delegated to the Head of Division for filling up the vacant posts of GDS BPM without reference to HOC by adopting the method firstly by appointment of surplus identified GDS fulfilling the conditions failing which by combination of duties in the same BO provided the combined workload does not exceed five hours failing which by recruitment of outsiders by observing the selection process as per DG Posts letter No. 17-103/2007-GDS dated 17 Feb 2011. This dispensation was given only for the vacant posts of GDS BPM in Branch Post Offices irrespective of number borne on establishment. It was made clear in the letter dated 17 Feb 2011 that approval of the Head of the Circle shall continue to be obtained for filling up other categories of Gramin Dak Sevaks which are not justified by workload/financial parameters in case such posts are required to be filled up for operational reasons. For the category of GDS Stamp Vendor, the existing vacancies of GDS Stamp Vendor including the posts likely to fall vacant on account of discharge, absorption or death, etc., are not allowed to be filled up if not justified statistically i.e. if the prescribed norm of Rs. 1000 sale per hour is not fulfilled as ordered vide DG Posts letter No. 6-24/2010-PE II dated 21 Jul 2010.
- (b) The guidelines at (a) above apply to all approved categories of GDS notified in Rule 3(d) of GDS (Conduct and Engagement) Rules, 2011 i.e. GDS Branch Postmaster,

GDS Mail Deliverer, GDS Mail Carrier, GDS Mail Packer and GDS Stamp Vendor. No other category, which is not included in Rule 3(d) is allowed to be filled up.

2. Elaborate instructions for making substitute arrangements were issued under letter No. 17-115/2001-GDS dated 21 Oct 2002. Such instructions in nutshell are reiterated as under:-

- (a) In Short term arrangements, as far as possible, work is to be managed by combining duties. Substitutes will not be provided in leave arrangements. In single handed BOs, the work will be managed by giving combined duty to GDS MD/GDSMC of neighboring BO in whose beat BO falls.
- (b) In long term arrangements, combination of duties as per above, may be resorted to. Substitutes will be allowed only if workload of the BO as well as financial position justifies such arrangement or filling up of posts on regular basis.
- (c) In town and cities where departmental officials are also available in same office, the possibility of managing the work by regular staff by combination of duties or by grant of OTA beyond normal working hours may be explored.
- (d) No substitute is to be allowed to take over charge unless the competent leave sanctioning authority/appointing authority is fully satisfied that the substitute possesses the prescribed qualification for that appointment and has been provided under the risk and responsibility of the regular incumbent.
- (e) Continuation of substitutes beyond 180 days at a stretch may be allowed only by the next higher authority to the appointing authority and only in exceptional cases where action has been initiated for regular appointment if justified by workload and financial norms.
- (f) No substitute arrangement shall continue beyond one year. If it is to be continued on unavoidable reasons, specific approval of HOC will be necessary for reasons to be recorded by the concerned authority in writing.

(i) It may again be made clear that combination of duties is permissible only in cases where the combined workload does not go beyond five hours.

3. Elaborate instructions for making provisional arrangements were issued under letter No. 17-115/2001-GDS dated 21 Oct 2002. Such instructions in nutshell are reiterated as under:-

- (a) **In case of provisional arrangements, such appointments should be resorted to in case where the GDS is unable, quite unexpectedly, to undertake his duties due to his own actions (unauthorized absence, fraud, misappropriation, etc.), due to circumstances beyond his control like sudden illness/accident/death or because the Department does not want him/her to continue (due to reasons of misconduct/dismissal/removal/put off duty, etc.). In other cases, action should be taken well in advance to fill up the post on regular basis.** Even where the post falls vacant unexpectedly, efforts should be made to manage the work by combining the duties keeping in view the limitation outlined in Para 2(ii) above..
- (b) Where provisional arrangement becomes unavoidable, action may be initiated to fill up the post following all the formalities prescribed for regular appointment but clearly stipulating that the appointment is on provisional basis.
- (c) In cases of death, there is no objection to a dependant being allowed to function on interim basis provided he/she fulfills the qualification required for such post.

Again, this may be resorted to if arrangement by combination of duties is not feasible. Such interim arrangement should not exceed one year.

(d) Approval of next higher authority is to be obtained in all cases where provisional arrangement exceeds 180 days. Where the period exceeds one year, the approval of Head of Circle would be necessary.

4. It was also clarified vide DG Posts letters No. 41-437/87-PE II dated 16 Dec 1987 and 06 Jul 1988 that wherever combination of functions is resorted to, the designation of the person may be ED Branch Postmaster (now called GDS Branch Postmaster), if he performs any other function in addition to his work as Branch Postmaster and, in all the other cases, the designation may be of the function which is the most predominant i.e. where delivery agency and main conveyance constitute the combined functions of an individual, he can be designated as Delivery Agent or Mail Carrier depending on the longer time devoted on the particular duty. In such cases, the pre-dominant function & designation given resultant thereto determines the admissible TRCA plus allowances.

5. Wherever the combination of functions is resorted to, the resultant another post, the functions of which are so combined, may be relocated to another office by way of redeployment & in case of non-relocation, the same needs to be abolished/kept held in abeyance. In case of future needs when the combined workload exceed 5 hours, the action would involve creation of post by adopting the prescribed process or by redeployment of surplus posts or by reviving the post ordered to be held in abeyance. Similarly, the posts, which are declared not to be filled up, need to be ordered to be abolished on being fallen vacant, viz., GDS SV (only not justified statistically) and GDS Mailmen, etc.

6. As and when information is called for, it has been observed that incorrect information about the vacant posts of GDS is furnished. In case of observance of the process as outlined above, the sanctioned number of GDS posts minus actual strength at any given point of time would reflect the actual number of GDS posts vacant for the purpose of initiating action for engagement on such posts. Where the instructions issued do not put a bar on filling up a particular category of post & the prescribed parameters are also fulfilled; action needs to be initiated promptly/well in time to fill up such posts adopting the prescribed process. In other cases where the prescribed parameters are not fulfilled, the Divisional Head is only authorized to decide about filling up the only posts of GDS BPM. In other cases, the process of obtaining approval of HOC may be initiated promptly; if, however, any of such posts is considered to be filled up for operational reasons, the Divisional Head shall send the proposal at least in a month's time from the date of vacancy and in advance (particularly in the cases of discharge, absorption to regular departmental posts). The Divisional Head should monitor its process with due diligence. The CO/RO shall also closely monitor their MIS.

7. The above position may be brought to the notice of all concerned for information and strict adherence.


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