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We study the singular boundary value problem with fractional q -derivatives

$$-(D_q^\nu u)(t) = f(t, u), \quad t \in (0, 1),$$

$$(D_q^i u)(0) = 0, \quad i = 0, \dots, n-2, \quad (D_q u)(1) = \sum_{j=1}^m a_j (D_q u)(t_j) + \lambda,$$

where $q \in (0, 1)$, $m \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2$ are integers, $n-1 < \nu \leq n$, $\lambda \geq 0$ is a parameter, $f : [0, 1] \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is continuous, $a_i \geq 0$ and $t_i \in (0, 1)$ for $i = 1, \dots, m$, and D_q^ν is the q -derivative of Riemann-Liouville type of order ν . Sufficient conditions are obtained for the existence of positive solutions of the problem. Recent results in the literature are extended and improved. Our analysis is mainly based a nonlinear alternative of Leray-Schauder. (Received August 13, 2012)