

### Masjids in possession of Local Government Authorities

1078. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of masjids are in the possession of the local Government authorities in India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof at present; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to release these Masjids from the possession of the local authorities?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### C.B.I. Enquiry against Punjab Wakf Board members/officials

1079. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any C.B.I. enquiry was made during 1972-78 against the members of the Punjab Wakf Board and the staff working in the Board;

(b) whether any enquiry by the Deputy Secretary of the Wakf was also made in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the details of the investigation; and

(d) what action has been taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) According to the inquiry report of the C.B.I. there was

some basis in truth about all the seven allegations which were checked and there was a strong suspicion that criminal offences like mis-appropriation, temporary criminal breach of trust, etc., may be involved in relation to some of the office-bearers of the former Punjab Wakf Board. The present Punjab Wakf Board has been asked to furnish the facts and details on the basis of the records available with that Board for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is any *prima facie* case in relation to these charges. Further necessary action will be taken on receipt of the information called for from the Punjab Wakf Board.

### Masjid in Batala (Punjab) in possession of Congress Party

1080. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a masjid was occupied by the Congress Party in Batala in Punjab and was changed into its office;

(b) whether this masjid is still in the possession of Congress Committee;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) who authorised the use of the Masjid for office purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir, according to the Punjab Wakf Board, the Masjid bearing Khasra No. 1060/61 in Batala was given on license to the Congress Committee, Batala, through its President and General Secretary and the mosque was changed into its office.

(b) One of the two rooms of the prayer place and a part of the verandha of the Masjid have been vacated and the remaining portion is still in the possession of the Congress Committee.