

Illegal encroachment of Waqf properties

1120. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the large number of Waqf properties in the country are under illegal encroachment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by that Government to remove these illegal encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) According to Section 32(1) of the Waqf Act, 1995, the general superintendence of all Auqaf in a State shall vest in the Board established by the State/UT Government and it shall be the duty of the Board to exercise its power under this Act as to ensure that Auqaf under its superintendence are properly maintained, controlled and administered and the income thereof is duly applied to the objects and for the purposes for which such Auqaf were created and intended. Hence, the detail of illegal encroachment on waqf properties in the country is not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) This Ministry has formulated a new stand-alone legislation named "The Waqf Properties (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Bill, 2014" to protect Waqf Lands/ Properties from encroachment in the country. This Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 18.02.2014 and it was referred to Standing Committee for Social Justice and Empowerment for examination and report. The committee, after taking oral evidence of the officers of this Ministry submitted its recommendations to Rajya Sabha on 12.08.2015. Further action is being taken by the Government on the amendments suggested by the Standing Committee for Social Justice and Empowerment.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at two minutes past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

RE. DOCUMENT FOR DEMAND FOR GRANTS

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Gujarat): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?