



From Margins to Mainstream

Empowering Lives, Enabling Growth

Waqf has always been meant to help the community by **providing education, healthcare, housing, and support** for the poor. However, problems like mismanagement, corruption, and inefficiency have often prevented Waqf properties from benefiting those who need them most. The **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, aims to fix this by making the system more transparent, efficient, and focused on reducing poverty.

One big problem in Waqf management has been a lack of transparency, leading to corruption and misuse of funds. The new bill introduces a **digital portal** to record all Waqf properties, making it easier to **track and audit** them. This ensures that funds are not misused and are spent on helping the poor. With **mandatory financial audits and digital records**, this change will reduce corruption and make Waqf management more accountable to the people.

The bill ensures that Waqf properties and funds are used to improve **healthcare services** for the poor. This includes:

- **Setting up clinics and hospitals** on Waqf lands to provide free or low-cost healthcare.
- **Partnering with charities** to fund medical aid programs.
- **Making medicines and essential treatments more available** in poor areas.

With better management, more people will get access to healthcare, reducing medical costs and improving public health.

Education is a key way to fight poverty. The bill ensures that Waqf funds are used for:

- **Building and maintaining** schools and madrassas.
- Providing **scholarships and financial aid** to poor students.
- **Supporting vocational training centers** to teach job skills.

By focusing on education, the bill helps people from poor backgrounds get better jobs and improve their lives.

Many poor people struggle with **housing**. The bill allows Waqf Boards to use properties for affordable housing. **Section 32(4)** permits:

- Building **low-cost housing** for the poor.
- Providing **shelters** for homeless people.
- Creating **subsidized rental programs** for low-income families.

This ensures that Waqf properties are used to help people instead of being left unused or taken over illegally.

Helping people become **financially independent** is important for reducing poverty. The bill supports:

- Setting up **training centers** for skills like carpentry, tailoring, and digital literacy.
- Providing **small loans** to help people start businesses.
- Connecting **trained workers** with **jobs**.

This approach helps people earn a living rather than relying only on charity.

A major issue with Waqf properties is **illegal occupation**. According to the **WAMSI portal**, **nearly 58,898** Waqf properties have been taken over unlawfully. The bill introduces stronger legal measures to:

- **Reclaim** illegally occupied Waqf lands for social welfare projects.
- Give **district collectors** more power to **protect** Waqf properties.
- **Prevent unauthorized claims** that take away resources meant for the poor.

These steps will ensure that Waqf properties are used properly to help those in need.

The bill also ensures **fairness** and **inclusivity**, making sure aid reaches all communities in need. It prioritizes poor people and uses data to make better decisions about Waqf resources. Additionally, the bill includes measures to **prevent disputes over land belonging to non-Muslims**, so that welfare efforts are not disrupted.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, is not just about managing properties—it is about making Waqf a **strong tool for helping the poor**. By increasing transparency, stopping corruption, improving healthcare and education, providing affordable housing, and supporting employment, the bill ensures that Waqf serves its true purpose. These reforms will help Waqf fulfill its **original mission—supporting the underprivileged and creating a fairer and more just society**.

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