



## **Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025: Reform through Stakeholder Engagement**

### **Introduction**

The **Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025** was introduced to fix problems in the management and governance of Waqf properties. The aim is to make rules clearer, include more people in decision-making, and improve how Waqf assets are used.

On **August 8, 2024**, two bills were introduced in the **Lok Sabha; Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024**. These bills aim to make Waqf Boards work more smoothly and ensure Waqf properties are managed well.

The **Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025** seeks to repeal the **Mussalman Wakf Act, 1923**, which was created during British rule and is now outdated. Removing this old law will help create a more **consistent, transparent, and accountable** system under the **Waqf Act, 1995**, removing confusion caused by the old law.

The **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025** aims to update the **Waqf Act, 1995**, to solve problems in managing Waqf properties. It proposes several improvements, such as:

- Overcome the shortcomings of the previous act and enhance the efficiency of Waqf boards by introducing changes such as renaming the Act
- Updating the definitions of Waqf
- Improving the registration process
- Increasing the role of technology in managing Waqf records.

# TIMELINE OF WAQF AMENDMENT BILL 2025

## AUGUST 8, 2024

- The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced
- Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Bill proposed constituting a Joint Committee of both the Houses and referring the Bill to it.

## AUGUST 9, 2024

- The Bill was referred to a Joint Committee with the mandate to examine the Bill and make a report for the Parliament.
- Committee decided to call memoranda to obtain the views from public in general and experts/stakeholders on the provisions of the aforesaid Bill.

## AUGUST 22, 2024

The first sitting took place on August 22, 2024 and the key organizations/ stakeholders consulted

## AUGUST 29, 2024

A press communiqué inviting memoranda was issued in national and regional newspapers through the Central Bureau of Communication.

## AUGUST 2024- JANUARY 2025

Joint Committee conducted extensive study visits to various cities across multiple cities in India

## JANUARY 27, 2025

Joint Committee completed Clause by Clause consideration of all Clauses of the Bill at their 37th sitting

## JANUARY 29, 2025

Adoption of the draft report and Chairperson was authorized to present it on their behalf at the 38th sitting held on January 29, 2025

## JANUARY 31, 2025

Joint Committee submitted its report to the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha on 31.01.2025

## FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Joint Committee submitted its report to the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha on 31.01.2025

## Distinctive aspects of this Bill:

- On **August 9, 2024**, both Houses of Parliament agreed through separate motions to send the Bill to a **Joint Committee** for review and a report. This **Joint Committee** included **21 Members from the Lok Sabha** and **10 Members from the Rajya Sabha**.
- Since the Bill is important and has a broad impact, the Committee decided to **gather opinions** from the public, experts, stakeholders, and other relevant organizations on its provisions.
- The first sitting took place on **August 22, 2024** and the key organizations/ stakeholders consulted during the sittings were:

1. *All India Sunni Jamiyatul Ulama, Mumbai;*
2. *Indian Muslims of Civil Rights (IMCR), New Delhi*
3. *Muttaheda Majlis-e- Ulema, J&K (Mirwaiz Umar Farooq)*
4. *Zakat Foundation of India*
5. *Anjuman E Shiteali Dawoodi Bohra Community*
6. *Chanakya National Law University, Patna*
7. *All India Pasmada Muslim Mahaaz, Delhi*
8. *All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Delhi*
9. *All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC), Ajmer*
10. *Muslim Rashtriya Manch, Delhi*
11. *Muslim Women Intellectual Group - Dr. Shalini Ali, National Convener*
12. *Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Delhi*
13. *Shia Muslim Dharamguru and Intellectual Group*
14. *Darul Uloom Deoband*

- The **Joint Parliamentary Committee** held **36 meetings**, where they listened to the opinions and suggestions of representatives from different **Ministries, Departments, State Governments, State Waqf Boards, and experts/stakeholders**. In total, they received **97,27,772 memoranda** through both physical and digital modes.
- To thoroughly review the **Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024**, the Committee conducted **detailed study visits** across multiple cities in India. The details of the study visits in 10 cities are as under:

1. **26.09.2024 to 01.10.2024: Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru**
2. **09.11.2024 to 11.11.2024: Guwahati, Bhubaneshwar**
3. **18.01.2025 to 21.01.2025: Patna, Kolkata and Lucknow**

- The Committee had **in-depth discussions**, interacting with **284 stakeholders, 25 State Waqf Boards, 15 State Governments, 5 Minorities Commissions, and 20 Ministers/MPs/MLAs/MLCs**. These visits helped Committee members understand the situation on the ground and collect region-specific insights.
- **The Waqf (Amendment) Bill has 44 Clauses and the Joint Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill (JCWAB) has recommended changes in 19 Clauses.**
- The Joint Committee submitted its report to the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha on 31 January 2025, and the report was laid before both Houses of Parliament on **13 February 2025**.

#### **An example of recommendations submitted:**

The **All India Pasmada Muslim Mahaaz**, an organization working for their upliftment, presented its suggestions before the Joint Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

1. **Introduction of an Appellate System**
2. **Better Management of Waqf Records**
3. **Stricter Penalties for Encroachment and Misuse**
4. **Disqualification of Board Members Involved in Irregularities**
5. **Proper Utilization of Waqf Property Revenue**
6. **Empowering Senior Revenue Officials for Fair Inquiry**

#### **Conclusion**

The **Joint Parliamentary Committee Report** on the **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024** highlights the effort to make Waqf property management **fair, transparent, and efficient**. The Committee listened to different viewpoints, conducted study visits, and had detailed discussions to address the concerns of stakeholders. The proposed changes in the Bill aim to create a **more inclusive and responsible system** that meets the changing needs of society.

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