

**Upgradation of Post Offices in
Pathanamthitta District
of Kerala**

4295. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices upgraded in the pathanamthitta district of Kerala during the past one year;

(b) whether it is a fact that telegraphic facilities are not available in many of those post offices in spite of upgradation; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No Post Office has been upgraded in pathanamthitta district of Kerala during the past one year.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

**Settlement of Wakf disputes outside
the Courts**

4296. SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether former Prime Minister had written a letter to all the Chief Ministers to get the Wakf property disputes solved outside the court;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by different State Governments;

(c) whether he has reminded the Chief Ministers for immediate action in the light of former Prime Minister's letter; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the State Governments and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. In 1976 the former Prime Minister had addressed two separate letters, one to Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and the other to Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and the Lt. Governor of Delhi. In these letters, among other things, it was suggested to the State Governments to settle the issue relating to the adverse possession of wakf properties by State Government Departments and Local Bodies on administrative basis as it would not be desirable that the wakf Boards start legal proceedings against the concerned Departments. Three following suggestions were made for quick settlement of such cases :

(i) Where feasible, the wakf property should be vacated and handed over to the Wakf Board concerned;

(ii) Where costly buildings have been put up on the land and their vacation is not feasible, the State Governments may enter into permanent leases with the Wakf Boards, after paying the Boards the bulk of the market value as premium; or

(iii) In the alternative, the State Governments may arrange to make over the fair market value of the lands to the Boards, which will relinquish their rights over the land, if in their direct management or obtain from the Mutawallis concerned, with their consent, the necessary deeds of relinquishment.

The two letters of the Prime Minister were followed by a. d. o. letter from the then State Minister for Wakfs, late Shri Shah Nawaz Khan through a. d. o. letter addressed to wakf Ministers of all State Governments. Since then State Governments have been requested from time to time to settle the issue of disputed properties by administrative action. Replies from a number of State Governments like Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Orissa have been received. The Government of Sikkim, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat have reported that no wakf property is under adverse possession of any of their States Government Department or Local Bodies. The matter is being pursued with the remaining State Governments.