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Title: Problem being faced by Wakf Boards in the country.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious problem faced by the Wakf Boards of the country. In all the States, the Wakf Boards are facing serious problem because of many deficiencies in the Wakf Act, 1995. Many amendments are required in that Act because it does not clarify many things. The functions of the Chairman are not clarified there. To remove encroachments, the SDM is mentioned but in the cities, there are no SDMs.

The persons who are encroaching upon the Wakf property should be punished. Not only those who encroach upon the Wakf property should be jailed but those who purchase the Wakf property should also be jailed. Otherwise, 2,40,000 Wakf properties all over the country are being encroached upon and looted by unscrupulous people.

There is a provision of three years' lease for development but nobody is ready to take a lease for three years. There are many more problems. There is a Parliamentary Committee which has also recommended many things. On the basis of that, the Wakf Act, 1995 should be amended immediately so that the sufferings of the Wakf Boards could be set aside.

So, I would request the Government and the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to bring adequate and proper amendments to the Wakf Act, 1995 immediately.