

# ₹4L for RTI's property query: Waqf board

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**New Delhi:** If you want to use the RTI Act to know the status of waqf properties — on which there is no official data and many of which have either been encroached upon or usurped — you may have to pay lakhs of rupees as fee. Disclosing this fact before the SC on Friday, Moradabad-based NGO Manav Vikas Sewa Samiti said the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board had told the NGO that the cost of the information sought — on the management of listed waqf property — was about Rs 4 lakh and would be furnished after it deposited the money.

In response to the RTI query, the Delhi Wakf Board had said, "No information is readily available. The informa-

**An NGO told the SC that the Centre began a scheme for drawing up a computerized list of all waqf property in 2009. But the list is still not ready**

tion sought by the applicant is quite voluminous and we lack wherewithal to provide the said information as compiling the list of properties, the disputes, suit numbers, courts' names, status would be time consuming and would be an undue burden on our meagre resources."

Making all waqf boards as respondents in its PIL, the NGO said that four years have passed since the Centre intro-

duced a scheme for preparing a computerized inventory of waqf properties and get them back from encroachers, but the list is still not ready.

A bench of CJI P Sathasivam, Justice Ranjana P Desai and Justice Shiva Kirti Singh issued notices to all the waqf boards and sought their responses to the PIL, which has sought a direction to them to comply with the December 18, 2012 order of the ministry of minority affairs for computerization of data on Wakf properties.

The NGO said the waqf boards which had received the central grant for computerization of property data told the it that they have not yet done carried out the work as the Centre had not fixed a timeframe for it.