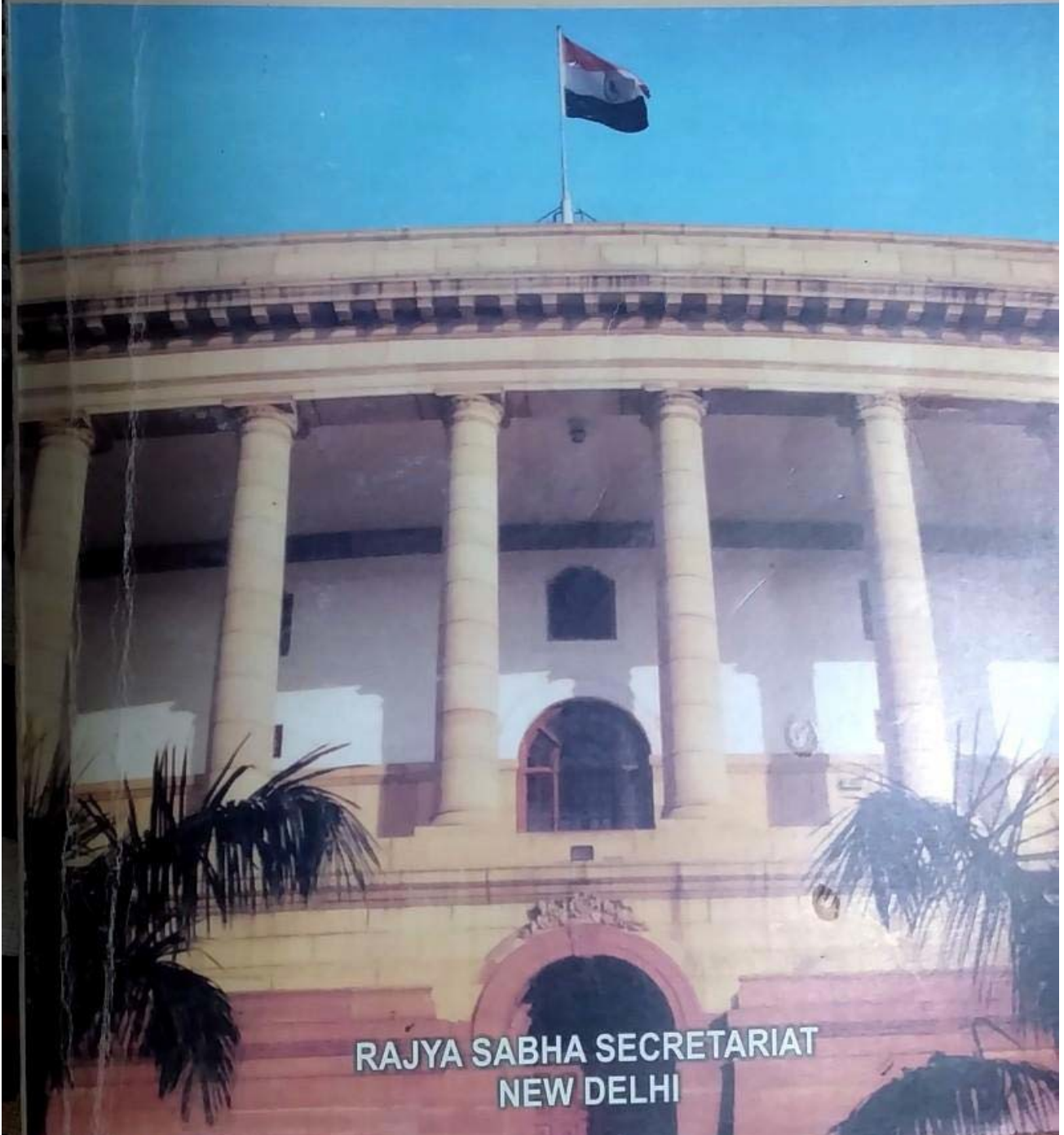




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Report of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf



RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

CHAPTER - IX

Computerisation of Wakf Boards and creation of a central data base

9.1 One of the basic problems that the Wakf Boards are facing is their poor infrastructure. They still have the same old system of record keeping, accounting, etc. As a result their records are missing and can be easily tampered. Only few Boards have fully computerized their operations. Most of the Wakf Boards are far behind in using modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) fully in managing their Offices. In some of Boards computers are being used to attend to the routine correspondence. Very few Wakf Boards have their own websites. Only Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala and West Bengal have attempted to have websites which they are still developing. When questioned about the status of computerisation, representative of many State Boards pleaded that they were not in a position to incur any expenditure for procuring both Hardware and Software.

9.2 The Committee was informed that both the Central and State Government have provided capital grants for acquiring computers and software to various Government Departments, Government undertaking and statutory bodies. As the Wakf Boards are also statutory bodies, it is incumbent on the State and Central Government to come to the assistance of the Wakf Boards and provide a one-time grants to computerise all the Wakf Boards in the country.

9.3 The Committee is of the opinion that the Central Wakf Council should be entrusted the responsibility of developing a uniform software which could be used by all the Wakf Boards in the country. They should also take up responsibility for training the staff of the Wakf Boards and computerization of their operations. The Committee is of the firm view that computerization will not only bring transparency and accountability in the operations of the Board, but will also make Boards easily accessible to the beneficiaries and the common man. This will enable the Boards to have continuous watch on the state of Wakf properties in their respective States and prevent any further encroachment as the information would be readily available. **The Committee is, therefore, of the view that the National Informatics Centre (NIC) should be asked to develop necessary software in consultation with the Central Wakf Council for**

being used by all the State Wakf Boards. The proposed software to be developed by the NIC on Wakf Management may broadly contain the following details:-

- i. Historical, religious and other aspects of the Wakfs in general.
- ii. Constitution and current status of Wakf Boards.
- iii. Status of Survey of Wakf properties.
- iv. Since the entire set of activities revolve around the Wakf properties, therefore, the software should contain a detailed status of such properties and should provide a transparent system based on entries of register maintained under section 37 of the Wakf Act, 1995.
- v. The entries under section 37 should be linked to various procedures, proceedings and information provided in the Act of 1995.

For example, a survey of development potential, rental value, litigation status, statutory contribution from Wakfs and other aspects of the Wakf properties may be given. These crucial pieces of information when linked with the entries of the concerned Wakf, a transparent picture of every Wakf property will be available for its strategic development and socio-economic planning.

- vi. The software should also cover finances of the Wakf Boards and should be able to generate annual balance sheets of the Wakf Boards automatically.
- vii. It should also include a module for file tracking and human resource management systems.
- viii. The software should be interactive with specific access to the users at relevant points.

For example, at the district level, Assistant Survey Commissioner, Wakf should be able to update the basic information regarding the Wakf properties. Similarly, at the Wakf Board level the access should be with the administrator of the system.

- ix. If an information generates income to the Wakf Boards, then there should be provision in the software to provide that information by charging a fee.
- x. Since the Wakf records are, in general, quite old and there exists a strong possibility of theft or damage to these documents, digitization of such record is also necessary.
- xi. The information should be maintained in standardised formats for all Boards so that inter-Board comparison or consolidation could be carried out.

After the execution/implementation of above project, it may be integrated with the records of the Revenue Department.

9.4 The Central Wakf Council is not able to have this task accomplished because it does not have enough resources and needs technical expertise. The income of the Central Wakf Council is limited and it is not able to invest any funds for computerization of the State Boards.