52852 - Can You Pay Zakah Monthly?

the question

We are in the Indian city of New Bombay, in our village Muslims are in majority. We collect the Zakah in Ramadan and then distribute it the whole year among the poor in the form of money and food stuff. Does Shari`ah allow this?

Summary of answer

There is nothing wrong with giving Zakah before one full year has passed, one or two years in advance, if a good purpose will be served by that, and it is given to a deserving poor family on a monthly basis.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Can you give Zakah to non-Muslims?

It is not permissible to give Zakah on wealth or Zakat Al-fitr to non-Muslims , except the one who is inclined towards Islam , in the sense that you hope that he will become Muslim if you give him Zakah.

Can you delay Zakah?

Once Zakah becomes due on wealth, it must be paid immediately, and it is not permissible to delay it .

Ibn Qudamah Al-Maqdisi (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

"If he delays it – i.e., Zakah – in order to give it to one who is more entitled to it among his

relatives, or to one who is in great need, if it is a small amount there is nothing wrong with that, but if it is a large amount, it is not permissible." (Al-Mughni, 2/290)

The scholars of the Standing Committee were asked about an organization which collects Zakah from the rich then delays distributing it for a year, on the grounds that there is help in the springtime, help in Ramadan and so on. What is the ruling on this delay, since the owners of the wealth have discharged their duty of paying Zakah and have given it to us (to distribute)?

They replied:

"This organization should distribute the Zakah to those who are entitled to it and not delay it if they have found people who are entitled to it." (Fatawa Al-Lajnah Ad-Da'imah li'l-Buhuth Al-'Ilmiyyah wa'l-Ifta', 9/402)

But on occasion it may be more useful not to give the Zakah to a poor person in one go, so that he will not spend it all and be left with no money; in that case he may be given something each month.

In this case you should discuss the matter with the rich, and collect Zakah from them a year ahead, then give it to the poor in monthly installments, or take it from the rich ahead of time in installments and give it to the poor in monthly payments. Then it will not be delayed after it has become obligatory. This requires discussing it with the rich and convincing them of the good purposes that will be served by that.

Can you pay Zakah monthly?

Ibn Qudamah Al-Maqdisi (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

"Ahmad said: It is not permissible to give Zakah to his relatives in monthly installments, i.e., he should not delay paying it so that he can give it to them in separate amounts, giving them something each month. But if he pays it all to them ahead of time, or to others in separate payments or all at once, that is permissible because it is not being delayed from its time." (Al-

Mughni, 2/290)

The scholars of the Standing Committee were asked:

Is it permissible for me to pay my Zakah in advance for the whole year, in the form of regular payments to a poor family each month?

They replied:

“There is nothing wrong with giving Zakah before one full year has passed, one or two years in advance, if a good purpose will be served by that, and it is given to a deserving poor family on a monthly basis.” (Fatawa Al-Lajnah Ad-Da’imah, 9/422)

With regard to giving Zakah every month in the form of food, please see question no. 42542 .

And Allah knows best.