99694 - No zakah is due on wealth that is endowed for the public interest

the question

A man endowed his wealth as a waqf for the needy and poor. Is any zakah due on this wealth?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Wealth that is endowed as a waqf for the public interest such as the poor, mosques, mujaahideen or orphans is not subject to zakah, because it does not have a specific owner.

Al-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him) said in al-Majmoo' (5/313): If the livestock is endowed as a waqf for the public interest such as for the poor, mosques, mujaahideen or orphans and so on, there is no zakah on it and there is no difference of scholarly opinion concerning that, because it does not have a specific owner. End quote.

Ibn al-Muflih said in al-Furoo' (2/337): There is no zakah on a waqf that is not endowed to a specific person, or to mosques and schools.

Al-Bahooti (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Kashshaaf al-Qinaa' (2/171): There is no zakah on flocks and other things that are not endowed to a specific person, such as for the needy or for a mosque and so on, such as a school, because they are not owned by anyone. End quote.

The Standing Committee for Issuing Fatwas was asked: Is zakah due on wealth that is endowed to the mosques?

They replied: No zakah is due on wealth that is endowed as a waqf for mosques and the like, and there is unanimous agreement on that (among the scholars), because it does not belong to any specific individual. End quote.

Fatawa al-Lajnah al-Daa’imah li’l-Ifta’ (9/412).

And Allah knows best.