

Printed from

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

# Vijayapura row: Only 11 acres belongs to waqf, says min

TNN | Oct 27, 2024, 10.45 PM IST



Vijayapura: The govt has moved swiftly to control unrest in Honawad, Tikota taluk in Vijayapura, stemming from notices issued to farmers asking them to vacate 1,200 acres of land claimed by the Waqf Board. The notices, citing old govt records, claimed the land belonged to the Shah Aminuddin Dargah.

Alarmed by the notices, farmers had petitioned MB Patil, minister in charge of Vijayapura district, expressing concern over attempts to declare their ancestral land as waqf property. On Sunday, Patil clarified that only 11 acres belonged to the Waqf Board, attributing the confusion to an "error" in an old gazette notification.

Patil, who is also industries minister, said, "Of the 11 acres, 10.1 acres are part of a burial ground, while the remaining 24 guntas house a mosque and an Idgah. The rest belongs to farmers." He added that local officials, including the tahsildar and deputy commissioner, had confirmed this.

The situation had escalated after farmers received notices following a visit by Karnataka Waqf Board chairman BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan to Vijayapura. Protests erupted in front of the district deputy commissioner's office, with farmers demanding clarity on ownership.

Patil said waqf notices were issued in 1974, 1978, and 2016. "In the 1974 gazette, the name 'Honawad' was mistakenly added in brackets alongside Mahalbagayath in Vijayapura city. After farmers brought this to my notice, I summoned officials on Oct 19 and directed them to correct the mistake," he said, urging BJP not to politicise the issue.

Responding to concerns raised by BJP MP Tejasvi Surya and MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, Patil insisted, "Not an inch of land that doesn't belong to the Waqf Board will be relinquished. Farmers need not worry. The Karnataka Waqf Board cannot claim 1,200 acres of farmers' lands."

He clarified that ownership concerning the 10 acres of burial ground is subjudice, and people should await the court's decision. Additionally, Patil said he will meet with district, revenue, and waqf officials to resolve the matter.

Farmers of Honawad expressed relief after Patil's clarification and withdrew their protest. Meanwhile, BJP has set up a committee led by MP Govind Karjol which will visit Honawad and compile a report on the matter.