

175776 - Government employees getting contracts by direct appointment

the question

Some government employees get contracts from the state to carry out specific projects, and this is called direct appointment. In other words, he does the project himself without having to refer to any committees and the like, then when the work is complete and has been done properly, according to what was required of him, there is some of the money left over. Does he have the right to dispose of it, knowing that it is impossible to return it to the state because he received it in the form of a cheque?

Detailed answer

First of

all we should examine the way in which projects are awarded by the state through direct appointment. If this is done in an open and transparent manner, without going against the regulations set out by the state, then there is no problem with it. But if it is done in a manner contrary to the regulations set out by the state, then this is not Islamically acceptable and it is not permissible for the employee to embark upon it.

If it is

Islamically acceptable, then we must examine the situation of the employee (who was awarded the contract):

If he was

acting as an agent on behalf of the government department, then he must return the surplus money and must try his best to do that; if it is not accepted from him, then he should spend it in the public interests of the Muslims.

However,

if he was a contractor appointed by the government department to carry out the project – and the regulations allow that – then the extra money is his and is regarded as part of his profits. For example, if they appointed him to construct a building for one hundred thousand, and he managed to do it for eighty thousand, then the extra money is his.

As you can

see, this answer is in general terms, as was the question. If you would like a specific answer, then we need more details about the matter.

And Allah

knows best.