

Fatwa no. (8206):

Q: I own an industrial equipment shop. The dealers include agents of national and foreign companies and they ask for a special discount of 10%, given that they are employees in their companies, and they earn salaries in return for their work.

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I have no idea whether the people who own their companies know about this; the discount is taken by the agent. I have been doing this for many years along with the owners of other shops. This is prevalent in most of the shops which deal with company agents, especially foreign ones. Please, Your Eminence, advise us concerning this. As for myself, I have stopped doing this and have repented. I only want to know how to expiate for the past years.

A: If the case is as you mentioned, the money those agents have earned through this discount is considered ill-gotten money and betrayal to their companies. Your cooperation with them on this discount is Haram (prohibited), as it is considered cooperation in sin and transgression, which Allah (may He be Exalted) prohibits in His saying, (Help you one another in Al-Birr and At-Taqwâ (virtue, righteousness and piety); but do not help one another in sin and transgression. And fear Allâh. Verily, Allâh is Severe in punishment. You should repent and ask forgiveness from Allah (may He be Exalted).

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May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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