Q: It is common observation these days that a late joiner of congregation would join in by saying the takbir (Allahu-Akbar) and go for Ruku' (bending position) without making it a point to observe Qiyam (standing position). At times, the essential takbir, because of this hurry, is dragged into the Ruku', where it does not belong. Given this situation, will the salah be valid?

A: This rakah will not be counted as valid- Standing, even if it be for a while, and saying Allahu-Akbar in that standing position is necessary. One goes for Ruku after having done that.

Contemporary fatawaa