

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 06.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
CREMATION OF DEAD BODIES AT GHATS .

2832

Shri Mangala Kisan

Will the Minister of COALENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that the dead bodies are cremated at ghats of rivers across the country, thereby causing pollution in the rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, river-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether Government proposes to construct electric crematorium along the rivers, particularly Ganga, Yamuna, Kaveri, Krishna, Godavari, Vyas, Kosi and other major rivers of the country so that the problem of pollution may be tackled under NRCP;
- (d) if so, the details of amount allocated during the last three years till 25th July, 2009, year-wise and river-wise; and
- (e) the details of amount utilized, yearwise and river-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to (e) Disposal of half and un-burnt dead bodies is one of the sources of pollution of rivers. To address this problem, setting up of electric crematoria is sanctioned by the Ministry under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

The Ministry has so far sanctioned 50 schemes of electric crematoria at a total sanctioned cost of Rs. 41.36 crore under the plan. These include 44 schemes along Ganga in the States of Uttarakhand, U.P., Bihar and West Bengal, 2 schemes along Yamuna in Delhi, 1 scheme along Sabarmati in Gujarat, 1 scheme along Khan in Madhya Pradesh and 2 schemes along Subarnarekha in Jharkhand. 38 of these schemes have been completed and 12 are under implementation. The remaining one scheme along Subarnarekha in Jharkhand has not been taken up as a crematorium has been constructed by the State Government. Expenditure of Rs.19.28 lakhs in 2006-2007, Rs. 46.54 lakhs in 2007-2008, Rs. 95.73 lakhs in year 2008-2009 and Rs. 26.47 lakhs in 2009-2010 (till June 2009) has been incurred on the schemes of electric crematoria along the river Ganga. The sanctioned schemes along other rivers had been completed earlier.