

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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Title : To make a nationwide policy for common burial grounds and crematorium

Dr. D. Ravikumar (Viluppuram): Respected Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your kind attention a very important issue. Despite caste-based discrimination being outlawed in every sphere of life, burial grounds and crematoriums continue to be segregated along the lines of caste. Multiple judgments of the Madras High Court have addressed this issue and directed that caste-based burial grounds and crematoriums be abolished. As early as 2008, Justice Chandru had ruled against caste-based burial grounds, and as recently as 2021 and 2022, the same has been reiterated in the cases of B. Kalaiselvi and Others *versus* the District Collector, Kallakurichi, and P. Muthusamy and Others *versus* B. Vennila and Others respectively.

Yet this practice continues to abound in most parts of the country. In light of the current situation, I request for a nationwide policy for common burial grounds and crematorium be created and implemented. Article 14 of the Indian Constitution protects the right to equality.

Hon. Speaker: Mr. Baalu, you are a Member of the ruling party. It is a State subject.

Dr. D. Ravikumar: I request the Union Government to formulate a policy.

Hon. Speaker: You are a Member of ruling party.

Dr. D. Ravikumar: Yes, Sir. This situation is prevailing all over the country.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आपने सब्जेक्ट तमिलनाडु का लिखा है। आपको सब्जेक्ट पूरे देश का लिखना चाहिए था।

Dr. D. Ravikumar: In 2014, the Karnataka Government has brought in a policy.

Hon. Speaker : It is 2022. It is not 2014.