

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3460  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010  
ENERGY EFFICIENT CREMATION  
Deora Shri Milind Murlu

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether over four million tonnes of wood is consumed each year for the purpose of cremation in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ritual also leads to emission of a significant amount of carbon dioxide and also adds to water and air pollution;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposed to introduce energy-efficient cremation systems;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) the status of implementation of the project; and
- (h) if not, the steps being taken to address the issue?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) It has been a traditional practice to utilize wood for cremation purposes. Information relating to utilization of four million ton of wood is an indicative estimate. However, the details of consumption of wood for this purpose are maintained by various local bodies in the Country.

(c) & (d) The cremation process results in gaseous emissions, which may impair ambient air quality in the contiguous environment. There are reports that half-burnt bodies are also disposed in the rivers, which affect aesthetics of the river.

(e) to (h) Improved Wood/Electric Crematoria is one of the non-core activities taken up to prevent pollution from cremation and also to prevent disposal of unburnt / half-burnt bodies into the river. So far, 107 schemes of crematoria have been sanctioned, out of which 86 schemes have been completed by the State Governments.