

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3442

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013

CONSTRUCTION OF CREMATORIUMS

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

- (a) whether rituals of cremation of dead bodies by burning them are causing environmental pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to construct energy efficient electric crematoriums along the ghats of various rivers across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the status of the proposal; and
- (e) the amount allocated and expenditure incurred during the last three years, yearwise,river-wise, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), is monitoring water quality of rivers in terms of Dissolved Oxygen, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Fecal Coliforms etc. Based on BOD levels, 150 polluted stretches have been identified along various rivers in the country. However, CPCB has not conducted any specific study on environmental pollution caused by burning of dead bodies.

(c) & (d) Construction of electric/improved wood crematoria is one of the activities taken up under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for abatement of pollution in major rivers in the country along with interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities and river front development.

(e) Funds are released to the concerned nodal Departments in the States for implementation of the pollution abatement schemes as a whole. The fund released and expenditure incurred by the States during the last three years, yearwise, river-wise, State-wise is at Annexure.