

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2692
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
CHECK ON CONTAMINATION OF WATER
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that saints in the country have pledged for Jal Samadhi after their death;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the impact thereof on contamination of water and the aquatic living beings in the water bodies; and
- (d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (d) Construction of electric and improved wood crematoria for efficient and environment friendly cremation of dead bodies is one of the activities taken up in various towns under the Ganga Action Plan and National River Conservation Plan for pollution abatement of rivers in the country. Under the Ganga Action Plan, awareness campaigns/meetings have been organized to encourage the usage of electric and improved wood crematoria. The District Administration, Haridwar have also held a meeting with various group of saints (Akharas) and public representatives to create a consensus on stopping the Jal Samadhis. As per the Central Pollution Control Board, the impact of decomposition of dead bodies and resultant deterioration of water quality of rivers has not been ascertained.