

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3844
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
DEAD BODIES IN GANGA
Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether the Government has laid down any norms for the cremation of dead bodies on the ghats of river Ganga;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether dead bodies were reported to be recovered from Pariyar Ghat in Unnao district;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that such an incidents do not recur as they may lead to outbreak of infectious diseases in the surrounding areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a)&(b) Yes, Madam. Model cremation ghats on the banks of river Ganga and promoting eco friendly methods of cremation for safe disposal of dead bodies have been given priority in the action plan drawn under "Namami Gange" programme. Norms for such model crematoria are laid down in Chapter 8 of the "Guidelines for preparation of project reports under National River Conservation Plan and National Ganga River Basin Authority" issued by the National River Conservation Directorate of Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change. An expert committee has also been formed for evaluation of new technologies including technology options for innovative / improvised wood based crematorium.

(c)&(d) Yes, Madam. As informed by the District Magistrate-Unnao (Uttar Pradesh), 81 (eighty one) dead bodies / skeletons and body parts in decomposed condition were recovered from river Ganga near Pariyar ghat in Unnao district and the relevant details have been recorded in the files at Safipur police station. The recovery of dead bodies is probably either due to reduction in river flow or reduced water quantity in that part of the river.

The recovered dead bodies were disposed off in accordance with the social traditions to avoid environmental degradation & outbreak of disease.

(e) Government of UP has issued directions to all the concerned district authorities to stop the practice of dumping of dead bodies directly into the rivers.