

BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Bailey Road, Patna

File No. BHRC/Comp.4420/13

Subject: Formulation of a State Policy for construction of crematoriums / earmarking of cremation grounds.

Case of: Samastipur

It was brought to the notice of BHRC that Mohiuddin Nagar Block (Samastipur), located on Ganges, does not have any **earmarked Cremation Ground/ Ghat** with the result even half burnt dead bodies are thrown, at times, in Ganges for disposal leading to pollution. District Magistrate, Samastipur informed that as per earlier decision of the govt. **one crematorium under "Mukti Dham yojna"** was to be constructed in every district and the same has been constructed in Samastipur block on the banks of river Gandak. BHRC had also been informed that there is no State Policy for construction of crematorium /earmarking of cremation grounds particularly in the rural areas.

2. Commission was informed that in a meeting convened by the **Chief Secretary**, Govt. of Bihar on 01.11.2013, a committee with **Secretary, Urban Development Deptt. as Chairman & Secretary, PHED, Environment & Forest, Energy Deptts. as members** was constituted [memo no. 2 ब/ न्या019-22/ 2013/ 2767 /न0वि0एव0आ0वि0/पटना dt. 18.11.2013]. **The committee was to formulate a comprehensive policy on construction and maintenance of crematoriums.**

3. Commission, in its order dt. 22nd Dec, 2014, felt that the earlier decision of the govt. regarding construction of a crematorium in every district under "Mukti Dham" yojana needs to be reviewed in the light of increased necessity and the environmental concerns and a State Policy need to be

formulated for earmarking of cremations ghats in the rural areas. It requested the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar to direct the concerned government departments to apprise the Commission about action taken in the matter by 28th Feb, 2015 but no response has been received by the Commission so far.

4. Commission, therefore, directs the Principal Secretary, Urban Development Deptt., Govt. of Bihar or his nodal Joint Secretary, to appear before the Commission on 30th April, 2015 (Thursday) at 12:00 hrs along with action taken report in the matter.

5. Copy of the order be sent to the (i) Principal Secretary, Urban Development Deptt., Govt. of Bihar for necessary action and the (ii) Principal Secretary/ Secretary PHED, Environment & Forest ,Energy Deptt. Govt. of Bihar and the (iii) Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar for information.

Date: 10.03.2015

Sd/-
(Neelmani)
Member

SP/DS