

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

Sh. Ajay Kumar Singh vill. Chapper Jorawer, Mohiuddin Nagar, Samastipur(mob.9431035954), had brought to the notice of BHRC that Mohiuddin Nagar Block which has a population over two Lakhs and located on Ganges, does not have any **earmarked Cremation Ground/ Ghat** with the result people are facing acute difficulty and , at times, even half burnt dead bodies are thrown in Ganges for disposal leading to pollution. The petitioner further informs that there is no State Policy for construction of crematorium /earmarking of cremation ground particularly in the rural areas.

2. District Magistrate, Samastipur, in his response, admits that there is no earmarked cremation ground/Ghat in Mohiuddin Nagar, Block and as per governments earlier decision for construction of **one" Mukti Dham"** in every district , the same has been constructed at village Chaknoor in Samastipur block on the banks of river Gandak.

3. Commission has been 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.** and Municipal Commissioner, Patna 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. The committee met on 27th Jan, 2014 and directed the PHED deptt. to survey cremation ghats in the municipal areas and identify for fresh construction/ upgradation of existing one.

4. **It appears the earlier decision of the govt. regarding construction of a cremation Centre in every district under" Mukti Dham" yojana needs to be reviewed in the light of increased necessity and the environmental concerns. While there appears to be some concrete thinking in the government regarding Urban areas , the same needs to be considered for the Rural areas as well.**

5. **Commission will expect the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar to kindly direct the concerned government departments to apprise the Commission about action taken in the matter by 28th Feb, 2015.**

Date: 22.12.2014

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Sd/-
(Neelmani)
Member