

Initiative towards abatement of air pollution in from crematorium

Cremation of human dead body in electric crematorium dates back to 1951 when cremation furnace was installed and commissioned in Kolkata. However, the problem of air pollution from crematorium did not get any attention at all at that time, because of the remote location crematorium and also non-existence of environmental regulations. But, subsequently due to spread of urban settlement, increased public awareness and also enactment of pollution control statutes it has become a necessity to install appropriate air pollution control devices in the electric crematorium.

In the KMA, out of electric crematorium constructed in 22 municipalities (16 under Phase-I & Phase-II of the Ganga Action Plan, and 6 others) 13 are provided with air pollution control devices. The remaining nine municipalities having electric crematorium but without air pollution devices are - Halisahar, Barrackpore, Kamarhati, Garulia, Bally, Utterpare-Kotrang, Bhadreswar, Hooghly-Chinsura and Berhampore.

At the first instance, the Govt. proposes to support these nine municipalities to install air pollution control devices. Further, the Govt. is preparing a scheme to support other municipalities beyond KAM for installation of air pollution control devices with electric crematoriums.