

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:657
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
EFFECTS OF TOXIC WASTE
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

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

- (a) whether the Government have recently banned imports of toxic waste etc. used for recycling and dumping in the country;
- (b) if so, whether toxic waste is still being imported at Alang in Gujarat coast by way of ships` breaking in the name of providing work to unemployed workers and their families;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; (
- (d) whether the Government are aware of the studies carried out by Singapore at Alang yards regarding metallic contamination and its ill effects;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to check the import activities of ship breaking?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI T.R.BAALU)

- (a) Import of hazardous waste for dumping and disposal is banned as per Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000.
- (b)& (c) Old ships for breaking are not considered as toxic waste as per the above regulation.
- (d) & (e) As per information made available by the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), no such report has been submitted to the Government.
- (f) Only cargo free ships are imported for dismantling at Alang for which the local Port Authority authorised by GMB under Gujarat Maritime Board Regulation , 2000, grants permission for beaching and cutting of ships.