

Title: Need to take effective steps to make the Daman Ganga river and nearby areas in Gujarat toxic free.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Minister for Environment and Forests to the news report in The Hindustan Times dated 16.12.1999 about detection of three global toxic hot spots in Gujarat, that is, Ankleshwar Industrial Area in Bharuch district and the Nandesari area of Vadodra district, as observed by the Green Peace International.

It is observed that treated effluents from more than 600 chemical industries are discharged in Daman River. The Green Peace activists had also chained themselves to a ship containing toxic waste which was being brought to the world's largest ship breaking yard at Alang in Bhavnagar district. Three workers at Alang yard are reported to have died on entering a ship's chamber in which leaking carbon monoxide gas had accumulated. Local environmental and social activists have also filed public interest litigation (PIL) which is pending in Gujarat High Court.

The analysis of the soil samples collected from Daman Ganga River bed revealed high toxic contents.

This is a matter of vital public interest and I, therefore, strongly urge Union Government for effective and immediate intervention.