

## **MODULE 2**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**

#### **2.7 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND LAWS.**

**2.7.1 Environment Protection Act – 1986**

**2.7.2 Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981, 1987**

**2.7.3 water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**

**2.7.4 Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**

**2.7.5 Wild life (protection) Act 1972**



## **2.7 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND LAWS.**

The Government of India constituted certain laws, legislations and acts to protect the environment. The laws protect the following environmental components.

1. Environmental itself
2. Air
3. Water
4. Wild life
5. Forest

The following acts are formulated to protect the environment.

- 1) The environment (protection) Act, 1986
- 2) The Air (prevention & control) pollution act, 1981, 1987
- 3) The water (prevention & control) pollution Act, 1974, 1978, 1987
- 4) The wild life (protection) Act 1972, 1983, 1986, 1991
- 5) The Forest (conservation) Act 1980

### **2.7.1 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT – 1986**

Environmental Protection Act is a general legislation law. It empowers the central government to fix the standards for quality of air, water, soil & noise and to formulate procedures and safeguards for handling of hazard substances.

#### **Aim of environmental protection Act (EPA)**

1. Protection & improvement of environment (Air, H<sub>2</sub>O, land)
2. Prevention of hazards to all living creatures and property (human, plants, animals)
3. Maintenance of a harmonious relationship between human beings and their environment.

#### **Important Features of environment Act**

- 1) EPA provides power to the central government to control environmental pollution.
- 2) The Government has the authority to close (or) prohibit (or) regulate any industry (or) its operation, if the violation of the provisions of the act occur.
- 3) The penal sections of the act contain more stringent penalties. The offenders are punishable with a maximum of 5 years imprisonment with a fine of Rs.5000 to one Lakh
- 4) The act empowers the officer of central government to inspect the site (or) the plant (or) the machinery for preventing pollution, and to collect samples of air, H<sub>2</sub>O, soil (or) other material from any factory (or) its premises for testing.

EPA empowers to the central government to directly act, avoiding many regulatory authorities (or) agencies.

### **2.7.2 AIR (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act**

This is an act for the prevention, control, & abatement of Air pollution. This Act deals with the problems relating to air pollution. It was enacted in 1981. It contains 7 chapters.

#### **Aim of Air Act**

- 1) Prevention, Control and abatement of air pollution.
- 2) Maintaining the quality of air
- 3) Establishment of central pollution control board (CPCB) and state pollution control board, for the control of air pollution.

#### **Important features of Air-Act**

1. The Central board may lay down the standards for the quality of air.
2. The state boards are empowered to laydown the standards for omissions of air pollutants from industrial units (or) automobiles (or) other sources.

3. The state boards are to examine the manufacturing processes and the control of equipment to verify whether they meet the standards prescribed.
4. The State Boards are to collect the information related to air pollution, and also to function as inspectorates of air pollution.
5. The state board can advise the state government to declare certain heavily polluted areas as pollution Control areas and can advice to avoid the burning of waste products which cause air pollution in such areas.
6. The directions of the Central Board are mandatory on state boards.
7. The Operation of an industrial unit is prohibited in a heavily polluted areas without the consent of the Central Board.
8. Violation of law is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or fine upto Rupees 10,000 (or) both.

### **2.7.3 WATER (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**

Water act provides ways for the prevention and control of water pollution, and maintaining (or) restoring the qualities of H<sub>2</sub>O.

#### **Objectives of water Act**

1. Prevention & control of water pollution
2. Maintaining and restoring of water
3. Establishing Central & State Boards for the prevention & Control of water pollution.

#### **Important features:**

1. This act aims at, to protect the water from all kinds of pollution and to preserve the quality of water.
2. The Act provides for the establishment of Central Boards and State Boards for prevention of water pollution.

3. The states are empowered to restrain any person from discharging a pollutant (or) sewage (or) effluent into any water body without the consent of the board.
4. Organizing researches on H<sub>2</sub>O pollution problems.
5. Organizing training programmes on water pollution.
6. Inspection of sewage & effluents
7. Analyzing water samples
8. The persons causing water pollution will be punished with 3 months imprisonment with a fine of Rs.5000.

#### **2.7.4 Forest (conservation) Act, 1980**

This Act provides conservation of forests and related aspects. This Act is enacted in 1980. It aims to arrest deforestation.

#### **Objectives**

1. Protection & Conservation of forest
2. Judicious use of forest.

#### **Important features**

1. The reserved forests shall not be diverted (or) de-reserved without the prior permission of the Central Government.
2. Forest land area should not be used for non-forest purpose.
3. Any illegal non-forest activity within a forest area can be stopped under act.
4. Protection of forest area from fire.
5. Prohibition of hunting, shooting & fishing
6. Penalties for violation under act
7. Giving punishment for offenders.

### **2.7.5 Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972**

This Act is aimed to protect and preserve wild life. Wild life refers to all animals and plants that are not domesticated.

India has 350 species of mammals 1200 species of birds & 20,000 the species of insects. Some of them are listed as endangered species in wild life. Wild life populations are regularly monitored and management strategies formulated to protect them.

#### **Objectives of the wild life Act**

1. To maintain the healthy eco systems for wild animals.
2. To conserve bio diversity
3. To conserve species.

#### **Important features**

1. The act covers the rights & non rights of forest dwellers
2. Establishment of sanctuaries, national parks & game reserves
3. Prohibition of non-timber collection.
4. Prevention of hunting
5. Punishing illegal hunters
6. Rights of forest dwellers recognized by the forest policy of 1988, are taken away by the Amended wild life Act of 1991.