

## **6.6 EPA ACT-1986 , AIR ACT- 1981 ,WATER ACT- 1974 , WILD LIFE ACT – 1972, FOREST ACT -1980**

### **THE ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION) ACT, 1986**

- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- It was introduced after the Bhopal gas tragedy during Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of our country.

#### **Objectives:**

- Providing for the protection and improvement of the environment
- Preventing environmental pollution in all its forms
- To tackle specific environmental problems that are peculiar to different parts of the country.
- To co-ordinate the activities of the various regulatory agencies already in existence.
- To appoint environment officers to check environmental pollution.
- To improve the quality of life by protection of environment.
- Establishing environmental laboratories.
- To protect the forests and wildlife in the country
- Alternative energy sources: Conserve our rapidly diminishing fossil fuel reserves by using Alternative energy sources.
- Biological control of pests: Using natural predators to eat pests instead of pesticides.
- Planning and execution of a nation-wide program for the prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution.
- Laying down standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from various sources whatsoever.

- Restriction of areas in which any industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards.
- Laying down procedures and safeguards for the prevention of accidents which may cause environmental pollution and remedial measures for such accidents. Laying down procedures and safeguards for the handling of hazardous substances.
- Establishment or recognition of environmental laboratories and institutes to carry out the functions entrusted to such environmental laboratories and institutes under this Act.

### **AIR (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) ACT, 1981**

- This law specifically states that: “the prevention and control of air pollution at its source is the primary responsibility of State and local governments.

#### **Objectives:**

- Protect and enhance the quality of air resources.
- Protect public health and welfare while fostering a beneficial productive capacity.
- Prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.
- Gives power to board for ensuring that there are proper systems for prevention of air pollution.
- Amendments created features to let industries make choices on the best way to reach pollution cleanup goals.
- Gasoline refiners can get credits for producing cleaner gasoline than required and they use those credits when their gasoline doesn't achieve cleanup requirements.

- Maximum achievable control technology to be adopted for both new and existing sources like equipped with waste water treatment plants and air pollution control devices.
- The Act provides that the State Government, in consultation with the State Board, is empowered to declare any area or areas within the jurisdiction of the concerned State an “Air Pollution Control Area”.
- Penalty Contravention: Offenders shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

## **THE WATER (PREVENTION & CONTROL OF POLLUTION) ACT, 1974**

Enacted to control water pollution and it extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

“Pollution” is defined in this Act as “pollution means such contamination of water or such alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of water or such discharge of any sewage or trade effluent or of any other liquid, gaseous or solid substance into water (whether directly or indirectly) as may, or is likely to, create a nuisance or render such water harmful or injurious to public health or safety, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural or other legitimate uses, or to the life and health of animals or plants or of aquatic organisms.

Central and State boards have been constituted under Water Act:

**Functions of Central Board (Central Pollution Control Board):** Provide technical assistance and guidance to the State Board, carry out and sponsor investigations and research relating to problems of water pollution and prevention, control or abatement of water pollution.

**Functions of State Board (State Pollution Control Board):** State Board shall plan a comprehensive programme for the prevention, control or abatement of pollution of streams and wells in the State and to secure the execution thereof; collect and disseminate information relating to water pollution; inspect, at all reasonable times, any control equipment, industrial plant, or manufacturing process and to give, by order, such directions to such persons as it may consider necessary to take steps for the prevention, control or abatement of water pollution; advice the State Government with respect to the suitability of any premises or location for carrying on any industry which is likely to cause water pollution; to lay down standards of treatment of sewage and trade effluents to be discharged into any particular stream taking into account the minimum fair weather dilution available in that stream and the tolerance limits of pollution permissible in the water of the stream.

## **THE WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972**

It was passed by the Parliament of India in 1972 to protect India's wildlife.

### **Objectives:**

- Prohibition on hunting of specified wild animals, birds and plants.
- Setting up and management of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- Control of trade and commerce in wildlife, and wildlife products.

- It includes amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles, and their young, and also includes, in the cases of birds and reptiles, their eggs.
- Capturing, killing, poisoning, snaring, or trapping any wild animal, injuring, destroying or taking any body part of any such animal, or in the case of wild birds or reptiles, disturbing or damaging the eggs or nests of such birds or reptiles are prohibited.

### **Sanctuary:**

- An animal sanctuary is a facility where animals are brought to live and be protected for the rest of their lives.
- Unlike animal shelters, sanctuaries do not seek to place animals with individuals or groups, instead maintaining each animal until his or her natural death.

### **National Park:**

- A national park is a park in use for conservation purposes.
- Often it is a reserve of natural, semi-natural, or developed land that a sovereign state declares or owns.

### **THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980**

- An Act to provide for the conservation of forests and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto.
- Restriction has imposed on the use of forest land for non-forest purpose.
- No State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing-

(i) that any reserved forest (within the meaning of the expression “reserved forest” in any law for the time being in force in that State) or any portion thereof, shall cease to be reserved.

(ii) that any forest land or any portion thereof may be used for any non-forest purposes.