

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

BOT-SPT-4.3.2-Biodiversity
Conservation.

Online class session-01 & 02

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

- These are the special rules or the laws given by the government to control the pollution and to protect environment.

Laws exist before Independence

1. Indian fisheries act-1897
2. Bengal smoke nuisance act-1905
3. The motor vehicle act-1935

Environmental Acts

1. Environment protection act(E.P.A-1986)
2. Air act-1981
3. Water act-1977
4. Wildlife conservation act-1972
5. Forest conservation act-1980

1. Environment protection act(E.P.A-1986)

This act was earlier named as Bhopal act-1985 and it was applicable only for Bhopal. But in next year i.e., 1986 it was renamed as EPA and applicable all over the country.

History of the act

- Bhopal tragedy.
 - In the year 1984 in Bhopal an industrial accident occurred i.e., 40 tons of methyle isocyanate gas was leaked from Union carbide company, and it leads to the death of thousands of people around that area, lacks of people affected by that. It was the world's worst industrial accident occurred.
 - The main reason for this accident is because of poor precautions and safety measures.
 - So to avoid that Bhopal government started an act called Bhopal act.

Purpose of the act

- To implement the decisions of the united nation conferences-1972
- To protect and improve environment
- To prevent hazards
- To excicute rules and regulations

Scope of act

- To set new standard qualities
- Pollution control
- Hazardous substance regulations
- Coastal regulation and protection of special areas
- Ecomark scheme

AIR ACT

- This act is started to avoid or to control the air pollution.

Scope of the act

- To set the emission limit in industries and vehicles.
- To set safety measures for chemical industries and power plants
- Pre-investigation report from central pollution control board(CPCB)

Sources of pollution

- Industries
- Power plants
- Vehicles

Toxic pollutants to be checked

- CO₂
- Sulphur dioxide
- Carbon monoxide
- Nitrogen oxides
- Lead
- Smoke
- Volatile organic compounds

Water act

- This act is started to avoid the water pollution and it came into existence in the year 1977.

Scope of the act

- To make sure that the industries have water treatment plants
- To regulate the water supply to the industries
- Effective maintenance of waste water
- Recycle and reuse of water
- To standardize the effluent rate from industries
- Rain water harvesting

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Wildlife conservation act-1972

- This act was started to protect the wild endangered animals and to avoid hunting of animals.
- India consists of large forest area and large number of wild animals. These will maintain ecological balance.
- But now a days wildlife is in threat, because people start hunting of wild animals for the purpose of food, medicine and also for ornamental purpose. So that the wild animals are at the stage of extinct and endanger. To save those organisms government started this act.

Scope of the act.

- To construct wildlife wardens
 - Areas in which wild animals present and travels for their food other purpose those areas areas are considered as wildlife wardens. In these areas people and vehicles are allowed with some conditions.
- To appoint staffs to implement the act
 - In some forests or national parks hunting and some illegal activities were going on. To avoid that government appoint some officers and workers to look after these.

- Declaration of sanctuaries and national parks
 - Under this act government can detect the areas those having wild animals and to protect them government can convert that area into national forests or sanctuaries. Those areas will be free from hunting and illegal activities.
- Special protection for scheduled animals
 - Wild animals are classified as schedule-1, schedule-2, schedule-3 and schedule-4 animals. Among them animals comes under schedule-1 and 2 will be under special protection. Hunting of these animals is completely prohibited. Animals comes under schedule-3 and 4 can be hunted by tribals and others with some conditions.

- In 1991 this act was amended and 3 major additions were made, they are
 1. Protection of plants
 2. Functioning of zoos
 3. Needs of tribal people

Forest act-1980

- Around 1950 India consists of 25% Forest area. But in 1970 forest area was decreased to 10% because of lack of maintenance and no strict rules. So that people cut down the trees and illegal acquisition of forest area.
- To avoid this and to improve the forest in 1980 Indian government started this act.

Scope of the act

- To control deforestation and promote afforestation and reforestation.
 - In village side people cut down the forests for firewood and also to enhance their agriculture land near forest area. So to educate them about the effects of deforestation and to promote reforestation and afforestation.
- Promote the use of alternative sources.
 - People cut down the trees for firewood and hunt the animals for food. So to educate them about use of alternative source for firewood and food this act was started.

- Construction of trenches, fences and check points.
 - To avoid the illegal activities, to avoid the entry of wild animals into villages and to avoid the entry of people into forest.
- To avoid illegal activities
 - In forests some illegal activities will be done like mining, hunting, cutting of valuable trees, etc... to avoid those this act will be useful.
- Needs of tribal people
 - Tribal people are the children of forest. So that they can use the forest resource. So that with some conditions they are allowed to use forest resource with some conditions.