

Environmental Policy Statements by the Government Of India

Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution, 1992

The Policy Statement of Abatement of Pollution seeks to integrate the environmental and economic aspects of development planning. Stress is given to preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution. The policy also stresses reliance upon public cooperation in securing a clean environment and to respond to the future challenges.

To achieve the objective of abatement of pollution to prevent deterioration of the environment, the policy purposes the adoption of the following concepts:

- Prevent pollution at its source
- Encourage, develop, and apply the best available practical technical solutions.
- Ensure that the polluter pays for the pollution and pollution control measures.
- Focus environmental protection on heavily polluted areas and river basins.
- Involve the public in decision making.

As regards environmental standards, the policy statement spells out the following:

- The norms will be revised to specify mass-based standards which will set specific limits to encourage the minimization of waste, promote recycling and reuse of materials, and conserve natural resources, particularly water.
- New industrial production units will have to conform to stricter standards. They will need to select technologies that produce no or low quantities of wastes and recycle or reuse waste products.
- The environmental effects - from production to disposal of products that are hazardous and toxic will be taken into account in the regulations. Chemicals will be reviewed according to the level of risk, and where safer alternatives and chemicals have become available, restrictions will be imposed upon the use of less safe procedure and chemicals. Regulations for liability and compensation for damages will supplement standards. This is designed to promote greater care and caution particularly in the management of hazardous wastes and with regard to remedial action in case of contamination of soil and groundwater.

Policy Statement for Siting of Industry, 1980

Recognizing the need for the proper location (siting) of industry for the preservation of the ecological balance and to improve living conditions, the Ministry of Industry formulated an Industrial Policy Statement as early as 1980. This policy sought prevention of indiscriminate expansion of existing industries and the establishment of new industrial undertakings within the limits of metropolitan cities and large towns. The ministry of Industry further developed a general list of polluting industries including a list of 20 highly polluting industries and set up a formal site selection procedure for the highly polluting industries. For all large projects the entrepreneur has to submit a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report and an Environmental Management Plan. In 1988 the Ministry of Industry. Also, the Water and Air (Pollution Prevention and Control) Acts were amended in 1988 to stipulate that the permission of the SPCBs should be obtained before siting an industry, taking into account a balance between economic and environmental considerations.
