

Unit 6(2)

Montreal Protocol: -

It is an international treaty that was signed on September 16, 1987 and became effective from January 1, 1989. The main objective of this treaty was to protect the ozone layer by stopping use of substances that are responsible for Ozone Depletion such as Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halon and HCFCs (Hydro chlorofluorocarbons). Montreal protocol is one of the most successful environmental treaty. 197 countries have signed this treaty. Due to this treaty production and consumption of Ozone depleting substances has been drastically reduced. India became its member in 1992. The ozone layer which protects us from the ultraviolet rays is now healing. Human activities caused the emission of halogen gases like chlorine and bromine to the atmosphere mainly by industrial processes and consumer products were once used in all refrigerators and air conditioning units. They reached the stratosphere where they break apart and release ozone depleting chlorine atoms. Halons are used in fire extinguishers and contain ozone depleting bromine atoms. Under the Montreal Protocol the production and consumption of all these are regulated. Now propellants such as hydrocarbons and compressed gases like nitrous oxide are used to make aerosols that do not deplete ozone layer. Montreal Protocol has since its inception undergone nine revisions. The last being in 2016 referred to as the Kigali amendment which aims for the cutting down of Hydrofluorocarbons.

Unit 6(3):

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): -

This is an international multilateral treaty signed on June 5, 1992 and became effective from December 1993. It was suggested at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Its main objectives are conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and equal sharing of natural resources as well as benefits obtained from various genetic resources. India is not a signatory to this convention. 195 states and European Union is party to this convention. CBD is a legally binding convention. CBD has two supplementary agreements the Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols. The Nagoya Protocol is mainly for equitable sharing of benefits obtained from genetic resources and the Cartagena Protocol is on bio safety to CBD wherein movement of Living modified organisms from one country to another is taken care of that are the result of biotechnology.

Dr. Vibha Narang