

Unit 6 (6)

Environmental Legislation in India: -

Wildlife Protection Act (1972):-

On September 9, 1972 Wildlife Protection Act was enacted by the Indian parliament for protection of plants and animal species. We need to protect and conserve the natural habitat of our wild plants and animals. This act regulates zoos, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries as well as other protected areas like biosphere reserves. Its main aim is to prohibit and control illegal trade in wildlife and their parts. This act provides in setting up of central zoo authority and national parks in the country. Protection of some endangered plants e.g. pitcher plant, Ladies slipper orchid etc. are also provided in this act. There are 6 schedules in this act which give varying degrees of protection. The Central Government appoints the Director, Assistant Directors and other officers for Wildlife Preservation. The State Government may appoint a chief wildlife warden and other officers or employees to take care of various activities under the provisions of this act. Grant of permit is required for activities such as collection of snake venom for preparing lifesaving drugs, scientific research and management. Hunting of wild animals is prohibited except in cases such as if animal has become dangerous to human life or disabled. Offences related to trade and commerce of animals and their parts attracts imprisonment up to three years and a fine of Rs 25000/-

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Environment Protection Act 1986:-

The Environment Protection Act came into existence just after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. This act was passed in March 1986 and came into force in November 1986. According to this act Environment affects all living creatures on the planet earth. It constitutes air, water, food, soil etc. The main objective of this act is protection and improvement of the environment. It is an umbrella legislation under which various problems related to environment are taken care of such as:-

1. prevention of hazards to man and other living beings.
2. laying standards for quality of environment.

3. safeguards for handling hazardous materials.
4. research and development related to environment especially pollution.
5. restriction of areas for locating industries
6. To provide punishment to those who endanger human environment, safety and health.

Under section 15 of this act (EPA) any person who fails to comply any rule or order of this act is punishable with imprisonment up to 5 years and a fine of upto one lakh. The EPA has 26 sections and has been divided into 4 chapters relating to general powers of central Government, preliminary, prevention control and abatement of environmental pollution.

Forest Conservation Act 1980: -

The Forest Conservation Act 1980 is the act of Indian parliament to provide conservation to Forests in India. It came into force on October 25, 1980. The main aim of this act is to protect and conserve trees so that they can support wildlife as well as their habitat. This act puts restrictions on deforestation and movement of forest products. Afforestation programmes need to be implemented, prevent forest fires, regulate planned cutting of trees for timber and other forest products. In 1992 some amendment to this act were made in which provisions were made for allowing some non-forest activities without cutting of trees or cutting with permission for such as setting of wireless communications, construction of bridges, fences, seismic surveys etc. Any offence made is punishable and imprisonment for up to 15 days.

Dr. Vibha Narang