

Industrial Pollution

60. The Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing the National Plan for pollution control in the country. Abatement of industrial pollution is one of the major thrust areas of this plan. According to the latest data collected by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), out of the 1551 large and medium industries in 17 categories of highly polluting industries, 1266 industries have installed the requisite pollution control facilities for complying with stipulated environmental standards. 130 industries have closed down and 155 industries are in the process of installing pollution control facilities. All these 155 defaulting units in various states have been subjected to legal action by the CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act. The CPCB and SPCBs are monitoring status of pollution control in these industries and they are being persuaded to use cleaner production technologies for reducing the ultimate pollution load. Fiscal incentives, in the form of reduced customs and excise duty, are also being given to industries for installing pollution control equipment. The Government is catalysing industry in forming waste minimization circles

and industries are being encouraged to adopt waste minimization and cleaner technologies. A total of 847 grossly polluting industries discharging their effluents into rivers and lakes have been identified in 15 States/UTs. Out of these, as per the latest status, 176 units have provided requisite effluent treatment facilities, 136 are closed and 535 are defaulters. The defaulters include industries, which are either in the process of installing the requisite treatment facilities or facing legal action. Preparation of zoning atlas for setting up of industries based on environmental consideration has been taken up.

61. During 1997-98, around 680 industrial pollution complaints were received. Most of the complaints relate to small scale units operating either in thickly populated residential areas or in the immediate vicinity of human settlements. The majority of large and medium industrial units have set up requisite pollution control facilities. However, the bulk of the small scale industries are yet to find appropriate solutions for managing issues relating to prevention and control of pollution.