

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

### **I. Functions**

The Ministry of Environment & Forests started functioning from 4th January, 1985. The Ministry plans, promotes and coordinates environmental and forestry programmes. The Ministry's main activities include conservation and survey of flora, fauna, forests and wildlife; prevention and control of pollution; afforestation and re-generation of degraded areas, protection of the environment and research related to these topics. The tasks are being fulfilled through environmental impact assessment; eco-regeneration; assistance to organisations implementing environmental and forestry research; extension; education and training to augment the requisite man-power, collection, collation, storage and dissemination of environmental information, and creation of awareness at the national Level.

The following subjects have been allotted to this Ministry :

- Environment and ecology, including environment in coastal water, mangroves and coral reefs, but excluding marine environment out the high seas;
- Botanical Survey of India;
- Zoological Survey of India;
- National Museum of Natural History;
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- Biosphere Reserve Programmes;
- National Forest Policy and Forestry Development in the country, including Social Forestry;
- Forest Policy and all matters relating to forest and forest administration in so far as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are concerned.
- Indian Forest Service;
- Wildlife Preservation and Production of wild birds and animals;
- Fundamental research, including coordination thereof and higher education of Forestry;
- National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board;
- National Assistance to Forestry Development Scheme;
- Central Ganga Authority;
- Prevention of cruelty to animals;
- Indian Plywood Industries Research Institute, Bangalore; and
- Central Zoo Authority.

### **II. Organisation**

The Ministry has three main wings, namely,

- (a) Environment & Forests;
- (b) National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board;
- (c) Ganga Project Directorate.

1. Six regional offices of the Ministry which are located at Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Shillong and Chandigarh, perform the functions on monitoring and evaluation of on-going forestry development projects and schemes with specific emphasis on conservation of forests and follow up of implementation of conditions and safeguards laid down by the Ministry for project activities where environmental clearance is given. The Government of India in July, 1992, constituted a new Department of Wastelands Development in the Ministry of Rural Development. Thereafter, in August 1992 it was decided to set up two Boards as follows:-

- (i) The National Wastelands Development Board in the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Wastelands Development), which has been made responsible essentially for the work on wastelands in the non-forest areas.
- (ii) The National Afforestation and Eco- Development Board in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The National Afforestation and Eco-development Board is to undertake ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country with special attention to the regeneration "of de- graded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas well as the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, Western Ghats, etc.

2. The Ministry also has the following subordinate offices :-

- (i) Botanical Survey of India;
- (ii) Zoological Survey of India;
- (iii) National Museum of Natural History;
- (iv) Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun.
- (v) SFS & Hangers Colleges;
- (vi) Forest Survey of India;
- (vii) National Zoological Park.

3. For the attainment of its objectives, the following autonomous bodies/registered societies have also been funded by we Ministry.

#### *Environment & Ecology*

- (i) Central Pollution Control Board.
- (ii) Govind Ballabh Pant Himalaya Paryavaran Evam Vikas Sansthan.
- (iii) Centres of Excellence;
  - (a) Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad.
  - (b) Centre for Ecological Science, Bangalore.
  - (c) Centre on Mining Environment, Dhnbad.
  - (d) C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer Centre for Environment Education, Madras.
  - (e) Salim Ali Centre of Ornithology and Natural History.

#### *Forest and Wildlife*

- (i) Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE):
  - (a) Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.
  - (b) Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore.

- (c) Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore.
- (d) Institute of Deciduous Forests, Jabalpur.
- (e) Institute of Arid Zone Forestry Research, Jodhpur.
- (ii) Indian Plywood Industries Research and Forest Research, Jorhat.
- (iii) Indian Institute of Forest Management, Training Institute, Bangalore.
- (iv) Wildlife Institute of India. Bhopal.
- (iv) Wildlife Institute of India.
- (v) Animal Welfare Board of India.
- (vi) Central Zoo Authority.

4. The Ministry also has set up one unit in the Public Sector viz. Andaman & Nicobar Forest Plantation Development corporation at Port Blair.