

After having served notice to more than 400 industries, the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board closed down 106 industrial units last year for creating air and water pollution. The majority of them installed effluent treatment plants to avoid closure by the department. There were 742 prosecutions by the PCBs in India between July 1991 and September 1992.

3.1.3 Emerging Legislation

India has tough environmental legislation, but difficulty in enforcing it. In light of this challenge, MoEF policy is now emphasizing pollution prevention through the introduction of cleaner technology and production processes, as opposed to imposing further regulations. Pollution control policy is now flavoured by economic objectives to a greater degree, based on the basic principles of:

- Pollution prevention as a necessary complement to end-of-pipe treatment;
- Improved cooperation and coordination between different levels of government in environmental management;
- Full-cost pricing of resources such as water and electricity;
- Higher penalties for transgressing pollution limits.

Under this new plan, financial incentives will be given to small-scale industry to encourage the installation of treatment plants and cleaner technology. This may include subsidies, greater depreciation allowances, excise relief and custom duty exemptions on equipment import.

3.1.4 Role of Government Agencies

Below are details about the roles and responsibilities of government agencies with environmental jurisdictions.

- *Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)* is responsible for environmental policy planning; ensuring the effective implementation of legislation; monitoring and control of pollution; providing environmental clearances for industrial and development projects; research; forest conservation; and coordination with relevant agencies at the national and international levels.
- *Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)* advises the central government on matters concerning prevention, control and abatement of water and air pollution; co-ordinates and provides technical and research assistance to State Boards; provides planning and execution of nation-wide programs for the prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution; and ensures compliance with the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.