

THE AIR (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) ACT, 1981

(Act 14 of 1981)

*[As amended by the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023
(18 of 2023), dt. 11-8-2023, w.e.f. 1-4-2024 vide GSR 757(E), dt. 18-10-2023]*

An Act to provide for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution, for the establishment, with a view to carrying out the aforesaid purposes, of Boards, for conferring on and assigning to such Boards, powers and functions relating thereto and for matters connected therewith.

WHEREAS decisions were taken at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in June, 1972, in which India participated, to take appropriate steps for the preservation of the natural resources of the earth which, among other things, include the preservation of the quality of air and control of air pollution;

AND WHEREAS it is considered necessary to implement the decisions aforesaid insofar as they relate to the preservation of the quality of air and control of air pollution;

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Thirty-second Year of the Republic of India as follows :

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement

(1) This Act may be called the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date¹ as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “air pollutant” means any solid, liquid or gaseous substance² [(including noise)] present in the atmosphere in such concentration as may be or tend to be injurious to human beings or other living creatures or plants or property or environment;

(b) “air pollution” means the presence in the atmosphere of any air pollutant;

¹ Enforced w.e.f. 16-5-1981 vide GSR 351(E), dt. 15-5-1981.

² Inserted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

- (c) “approved appliance” means any equipment or gadget used for the burning of any combustible material or for generating or consuming any fume, gas or particulate matter and approved by the State Board for the purposes of this Act;
- (d) “approved fuel” means any fuel approved by the State Board for the purposes of this Act;
- (e) “automobile” means any vehicle powered either by internal combustion engine or by any method of generating power to drive such vehicle by burning fuel;
- (f) “Board” means the Central Board or State Board;
- (g) “Central Board” means the ¹[Central Pollution Control Board] constituted under section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974);
- (h) “chimney” includes any structure with an opening or outlet from or through which any air pollutant may be emitted;
- (i) “control equipment” means any apparatus, device, equipment or system to control the quality and manner of emission of any air pollutant and includes any device used for securing the efficient operation of any industrial plant;
- (j) “emission” means any solid or liquid or gaseous substance coming out of any chimney, duct or flue or any other outlet;
- (k) “industrial plant” means any plant used for any industrial or trade purposes and emitting any air pollutant into the atmosphere;
- (l) “member” means a member of the Central Board or a State Board, as the case may be, and includes the Chairman thereof;
- ²(m) “occupier”, in relation to any factory or premises, means the person who has control over the affairs of the factory or the premises and includes, in relation to any substance, the person in possession of the substance;]
- (n) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act by the Central Government or, as the case may be, the State Government;
- (o) “State Board” means—
- (i) in relation to a State in which the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974), is in force and the State Government has constituted for that State a ³[State Pollution Control Board] under section 4 of that Act, the said State Board; and
- (ii) in relation to any other State, the State Board for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution constituted by the State Government under section 5 of this Act.

¹ Substituted for “Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution” by Act 47 of 1987.

² Substituted for clause (m) by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

³ Substituted for “State Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution” by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

COMMENTS**Sec. 2(a)**

"Pollute", a derivative from the Latin "polluere pollut", means to contaminate or defile (the environment), or to make it filthy or foul, in other words, it connotes "to destroy the purity or sanctity thereof."—*Young v. State 194 Ind 221, 141 NE 309, 311*

Sec. 2(e)

Automobile means a vehicle designed mainly for the transportation of persons, equipped with an internal combustion, hydrocarbon vapour engine furnishing the motive power and forming a structural portion thereof.—*American-La France Fire Engine Co. v. Riordan, C.C.A.N.Y., 6 F. 2d 964*. Etymologically, the term might include any self-propelled vehicle, as an electric street car, or a motor boat, but in popular and legal usage it is confined to a vehicle for the transportation of persons or property on terrestrial highways, carrying its own motive power and not operated upon fixed tracks.—*Bethlehem Motors Corporation. v. Flynt, 178 N.C. 399, 100 S.E. 693*. Synonymous with "motor vehicle."—*State v. Ferry Line Auto Bus Co., 99 Wash. 64, 168, p. 893*.

Sec. 2(h)

Chimney is a vertical channel conducting smoke or combustion gases, etc., up and away from a fire, furnace, engine, etc., a part of which will project above the roof.

Sec. 2(i)

The term "equipment" means furnishings, or outfit for the required purposes. It is an exceedingly elastic term, the meaning of which depends on context. It is nearly synonymous with "instrumentality."—*Nekoosa Edwards Paper Co. Minneapolis St. P & S.S.M. Ry. Co., 217 Wis 426, 259, N.W. 618, but not synonymous with maintenance.*—*Neal v. City of Morrilton 192 Ark 450, 42 S.W. 2d 208*

Sec. 2(m)

Under s. 2(n) of the Factories Act, 1948 an "occupier" of a factory means the person who has ultimate control over the affairs of the factory:

PROVIDED that—

- (i) in the case of a firm or other association of individuals, any one of the individual partners or members thereof shall be deemed to be the occupier;
- (ii) in the case of a company, any one of the directors shall be deemed to be the occupier;
- (iii) in the case of a factory owned or controlled by the Central Government or any State Government, or any local authority, the person or persons appointed to manage the affairs of the factory by the Central Government, the State Government or the local authority, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be the occupier:

PROVIDED FURTHER that in the case of a ship which is being repaired, or on which maintenance work is being carried out, in a dry dock which is available for hire—

(1) the owner of the dock shall be deemed to be the occupier for the purposes of any matter provided for by or under (a) section 6, section 7, section 7A, section 7B, section 11 or section 12; (b) section 17, insofar as it relates to the providing and maintenance of sufficient and suitable lighting in or around the dock; (c) section 18, section 19, section 42, section 46, section 47 or section 49, in relation to the workers employed on such repair or maintenance;

(2) the owner of the ship or his agent or master or other officer-in-charge of the ship or any person who contracts with such owner, agent or master or other officer-in-charge to carry out the repair or maintenance work shall be deemed to be the occupier for the purposes of any matter provided for by or under section 13, section 14, section 16 or section 17 (save as otherwise provided in this proviso) or Chapter IV (except section 27) or section 43, section 44, or section 45, Chapter VI, Chapter VII, Chapter VIII or Chapter IX or section 108, section 109 or section

110, in relation to (a) the workers employed directly by him, or by or through any agency; and (b) the machinery, plant or premises in use for the purpose of carrying out such repair or maintenance work by such owner, agent, master or other officer-in-charge or person.

Sec. 2(n)

“Prescribe” means to assert a right or title to the enjoyment of a thing, on the ground of having hitherto had the uninterrupted and immemorial enjoyment of it. It means to lay down authoritatively as a guide, direction, or rule; to impose as a peremptory order; to dictate; to point; to direct; to give as a guide, direction, or rule of action; to give law.—*State v. Truax*, 130 Wash. 69, 226 p. 259, 260 33 A.L.R. 1206; *McMahon v. Devlin*, 254 N.Y. 397, 173 N.E. 560. In modern statutes relating to matters of an administrative nature, such as procedure, registration, etc., it is usual to indicate in general terms the nature of the proceedings to be adopted, and to leave the details to be prescribed or regulated by rules or orders to be made for that purpose in pursuance of an authority contained in the Act.—*Sweet. Mansfield v. People*, 164 111 611, 45 N.E. 976

CHAPTER II

CENTRAL AND STATE BOARDS FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION

¹3. Central Pollution Control Board

The Central Pollution Control Board constituted under section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974), shall, without prejudice to the exercise and performance of its powers and functions under that Act, exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Central Pollution Control Board for the prevention and control of air pollution under this Act.

4. State Pollution Control Boards constituted under section 4 of Act 6 of 1974 to be State Boards under this Act

In any State in which the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974), is in force and the State Government has constituted for that State a State Pollution Control Board under section 4 of that Act, such State Board shall be deemed to be the State Board for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution constituted under section 5 of this Act and accordingly that State Pollution Control Board shall, without prejudice to the exercise and performance of its powers and functions under that Act, exercise the powers and perform the functions of the State Board for the prevention and control of air pollution under this Act.]

¹ Secs. 3 and 4 substituted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988. Prior to substitution, the sections stood as:

“3. Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution

The Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution constituted under section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, shall, without prejudice to the exercise and performance of its powers and functions under this Act, exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution under this Act.

4. State Boards for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution to be State Boards for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution

In any State in which the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, is in force and the State Government has constituted for that State a State Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution under section 4 of that Act, such State Board shall be deemed to be the State Board for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution constituted under section 5 of this Act and accordingly that State Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution shall, without prejudice to the exercise and performance of its powers and functions under that Act, exercise the powers and perform the functions of the State Board for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution under this Act.”

5. Constitution of State Boards

(1) In any State in which the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974), is not in force, or that Act is in force but the State Government has not constituted a ¹[State Pollution Control Board] under that Act, the State Government shall, with effect from such date as it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, constitute a ¹[State Pollution Control Board] for the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution under such name as may be specified in the notification, to exercise the powers conferred on, and perform the functions assigned to, that Board under this Act.

(2) A State Board constituted under this Act shall consist of the following members, namely:—

- (a) a Chairman, being a person having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of matters relating to environmental protection, to be nominated by the State Government:

PROVIDED that the Chairman may be either whole-time or part-time as the State Government may think fit;

- (b) such number of officials, not exceeding five, as the State Government may think fit, to be nominated by the State Government to represent that government;
- (c) such number of persons, not exceeding five, as the State Government may think fit, to be nominated by the State Government from amongst the members of the local authorities functioning within the State;
- (d) such number of non-officials, not exceeding three, as the State Government may think fit, to be nominated by the State Government to represent the interests of agriculture, fishery or industry or trade or labour or any other interest, which in the opinion of that government, ought to be represented;
- (e) two persons to represent the companies or corporations owned, controlled or managed by the State Government, to be nominated by that government;
- ²(f) a full-time member-secretary having such qualifications, knowledge and experience of scientific, engineering or management aspects of pollution control as may be prescribed, to be appointed by the State Government:]

PROVIDED that the State Government shall ensure that not less than two of the members are persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of matters relating to the improvement of the quality of air or the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution.

(3) Every State Board constituted under this Act shall be a body corporate with the name specified by the State Government in the notification issued under subsection (1), having perpetual succession and a common seal with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire and dispose of property and to contract, and may by the said name sue or be sued.

¹ Substituted for "State Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution" by Act 47 of 1987.

² Substituted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

6. Central Board to exercise the powers and perform the functions of a State Board in the Union Territories

No State Board shall be constituted for a Union Territory and in relation to a Union Territory, the Central Board shall exercise the powers and perform the functions of a State Board under this Act for that Union Territory:

PROVIDED that in relation to any Union Territory the Central Board may delegate all or any of its powers and functions under this section to such person or body of persons as the Central Government may specify.

7. Terms and conditions of service of members

(1) Save as otherwise provided by or under this Act, a member of a State Board constituted under this Act, other than the member-secretary, shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which his nomination is notified in the Official Gazette:

PROVIDED that a member shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office.

(2) The term of office of a member of a State Board constituted under this Act and nominated under clause (b) or clause (e) of sub-section (2) of section 5 shall come to an end as soon as he ceases to hold the office under the State Government or, as the case may be, the company or corporation owned, controlled or managed by the State Government, by virtue of which he was nominated.

(3) A member of a State Board constituted under this Act, other than the member-secretary, may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed,—

- (a) in the case of the Chairman, to the State Government; and
- (b) in any other case, to the Chairman of the State Board, and the seat of the Chairman or such other member shall thereupon become vacant.

(4) A member of a State Board constituted under this Act, other than the member-secretary, shall be deemed to have vacated his seat, if he is absent without reason, sufficient in the opinion of the State Board, from three consecutive meetings of the State Board or where he is nominated under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 5, he ceases to be a member of the local authority and such vacation of seat shall, in either case, take effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify.

(5) A casual vacancy in a State Board constituted under this Act shall be filled by a fresh nomination and the person nominated to fill the vacancy shall hold office only for the remainder of the term for which the member whose place he takes was nominated.

(6) A member of a State Board constituted under this Act shall be eligible for re-nomination ¹[x x x].

(7) The other terms and conditions of service of the Chairman and other members (except the member-secretary) of a State Board constituted under this Act shall be such as may be prescribed.

¹ Words "but not for more than two terms" omitted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

COMMENTS

Sec. 7 of the Act providing for the terms and conditions of service of members of the boards lays down that Save as otherwise provided by or under this Act, a member of a State Board constituted under this Act, other than the member-secretary, shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which his nomination is notified in the Official Gazette, provided that a member shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office. Sub-s. (6) thereof says that a member of a State Board constituted under this Act shall be eligible for re-nomination.

8. Disqualifications

(1) No person shall be a member of a State Board constituted under this Act, who—

- (a) is, or at any time has been, adjudged insolvent, or
- (b) is of unsound mind and has been so declared by a competent court, or
- (c) is, or has been, convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the State Government, involves moral turpitude, or
- (d) is, or at any time has been, convicted of an offence under this Act, or
- (e) has directly or indirectly by himself or by any partner, any share or interest in any firm or company carrying on the business of manufacture, sale, or hire of machinery, industrial plant, control equipment or any other apparatus for the improvement of the quality of air or for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution, or
- (f) is a director or a secretary, manager or other salaried officer or employee of any company or firm having any contract with the Board, or with the government constituting the Board, or with a local authority in the State or with a company or corporation owned, controlled or managed by the government, for the carrying out of programmes for the improvement of the quality of air or for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution;
or
- (g) has so abused, in the opinion of the State Government, his position as a member, as to render his continuance on the State Board detrimental to the interests of the general public.

(2) The State Government shall, by order in writing, remove any member who is, or has become, subject to any disqualification mentioned in sub-section (1):

PROVIDED that no order of removal shall be made by the State Government under this section unless the member concerned has been given a reasonable opportunity of showing cause against the same.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (6) of section 7, a member who has been removed under this section shall not be eligible to continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office, or, as the case may be, for re-nomination as a member.

9. Vacation of seats by members

If a member of a State Board constituted under this Act becomes subject to any of the disqualifications specified in section 8, his seat shall become vacant.

10. Meetings of Board

(1) For the purposes of this Act, a Board shall meet at least once in every three months and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings as may be prescribed:

PROVIDED that if, in the opinion of the Chairman, any business of an urgent nature is to be transacted, he may convene a meeting of the Board at such time as he thinks fit for the aforesaid purpose.

(2) Copies of the minutes of the meetings under sub-section (1) shall be forwarded to the Central Board and to the State Government concerned.

11. Constitution of committees

(1) A Board may constitute as many committees consisting wholly of members or partly of members and partly of other persons and for such purpose or purposes as it may think fit.

(2) A committee constituted under this section shall meet at such time and at such place, and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings, as may be prescribed.

(3) The members of a committee other than the members of the Board shall be paid such fees and allowances, for attending its meetings and for attending to any other work of the Board as may be prescribed.

12. Temporary association of persons with Board for particular purposes

(1) A Board may associate with itself in such manner, and for such purposes, as may be prescribed, any person whose assistance or advice it may desire to obtain in performing any of its functions under this Act.

(2) A person associated with the Board under sub-section (1) for any purpose shall have a right to take part in the discussions of the Board relevant to that purpose, but shall not have a right to vote at a meeting of the Board and shall not be a member of the Board for any other purpose.

(3) A person associated with a Board under sub-section (1) shall be entitled to receive such fees and allowances as may be prescribed.

13. Vacancy in Board not to invalidate acts or proceedings

No act or proceeding of a Board or any committee thereof shall be called in question on the ground merely of the existence of any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Board or such committee, as the case may be.

14. Member-secretary and officers and other employees of State Boards

(1) The terms and conditions of service of the member-secretary of a State Board constituted under this Act shall be such as may be prescribed.

¹[(2) The member-secretary of a State Board, whether constituted under this Act or not, shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed, or as may, from time to time, be delegated to him by the State Board or its Chairman.]

¹ Substituted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

(3) Subject to such rules as may be made by the State Government in this behalf, a State Board, whether constituted under this Act or not, may appoint such officers and other employees as it considers necessary for the efficient performance of its functions under this Act.

(4) The method of appointment, the conditions of service and the scales of pay of the officers (other than the member-secretary) and other employees of a State Board appointed under sub-section (3) shall be such as may be determined by regulations made by the State Board under this Act.

(5) Subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, a State Board constituted under this Act may from time to time appoint any qualified person to be a consultant to the Board and pay him such salary and allowances or fees, as it thinks fit.

15. Delegation of powers

A State Board may, by general or special order, delegate to the Chairman or the member-secretary or any other officer of the Board subject to such conditions and limitations, if any, as may be specified in the order, such of its powers and functions under this Act as it may deem necessary.

COMMENTS

“Delegated legislation”, otherwise called subordinate or administrative legislation, generally means the rules made under an Act by a body other than the legislative authority by virtue of powers conferred on it by the said Act. It is a legislation made directly by ministers or local authorities under powers given to them by the Parliament. Delegation, as a word as generally used, does not imply a parting with powers by the person who grants the delegation, but points rather to a conferring of an authority to do things which otherwise the person would have to do himself. There is a distinction between employing someone else to carry on one’s business and engaging someone else to perform something which is his business. A master delegates to his own servants the work of carrying on his own business; he may be said to delegate when he employs some outside person to act as his representative.

Delegated legislation consists of orders, rules, regulations, directions, by-laws, etc. made by a person or body other than the legislative authority by virtue of powers conferred by statute. It is also called subordinate legislation or administrative legislation. Here is a combination of two organs of government—legislative and executive. The legislative power is the power to lay down the law for people in general whereas administrative power is the power to lay down the law for them individually or in some particular case. But there are cases where it becomes difficult to apply this test. The Supreme Court has held that the power to fix prices is administrative while the power to tax rates is legislative.—*Dwarka Prasad v. State of U.P.*, AIR 1954 (SC) 224; *Corporation of Calcutta v. Liberty Cinema*, AIR 1965 (SC) 1107

The legislature cannot repose any power essentially legislative in another body or organ; it cannot efface itself and set up a parallel legislative authority; it must exercise its judgment on vital matters of policy and enact the general principles which should be embodied in the legislation; but it can confer upon any person or body fitted to exercise it, the power to work out details and particulars for carrying out its policy and in order to give effect to the legislation in a particular direction. It is not possible to lay down any hard and fast rule for determining whether a matter is of principle and policy or whether it is one of detail, ancillary to the statute for carrying it into effect. The question, though often beset with difficulty, has to be answered with reference to the nature of the impugned legislation.—*Kashiram Biharilal v. Badrilal*, AIR 1955 (Madh Bha) 177; *In re: Delhi Laws Act*, AIR 1951 (SC) 332; *Municipal Corpn. of Delhi v. Delhi Cotton Mills*, AIR 1968 (SC) 1232; *Co-operative Farming Society v. State of M.P.* 59

CHAPTER III**POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF BOARDS****16. Functions of Central Board**

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, and without prejudice to the performance of its functions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974), the main functions of the Central Board shall be to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing functions, the Central Board may—

- (a) advise the Central Government on any matter concerning the improvement of the quality of air and the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution;
- (b) plan and cause to be executed a nation-wide programme for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution;
- (c) co-ordinate the activities of the State Boards and resolve disputes among them;
- (d) provide technical assistance and guidance to the State Boards, carry out and sponsor investigations and research relating to problems of air pollution and prevention, control or abatement of air pollution;
- ¹[(dd) perform such of the functions of any State Board as may be specified in an order made under sub-section (2) of section 18;]
- (e) plan and organise the training of persons engaged or to be engaged in programmes for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution on such terms and conditions as the Central Board may specify;
- (f) organise through mass media a comprehensive programme regarding the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution;
- (g) collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data relating to air pollution and the measures devised for its effective prevention, control or abatement and prepare manuals, codes or guides relating to prevention, control or abatement of air pollution;
- (h) lay down standards for the quality of air;
- (i) collect and disseminate information in respect of matters relating to air pollution;
- (j) perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

(3) The Central Board may establish or recognise a laboratory or laboratories to enable the Central Board to perform its functions under this section efficiently.

(4) The Central Board may—

- (a) delegate any of its functions under this Act generally or specially to any of the committees appointed by it;
- (b) do such other things and perform such other acts as it may think necessary for the proper discharge of its functions and generally for the purpose of carrying into effect the purposes of this Act.

¹ Inserted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

COMMENTS

The Central Board vide SO 935(E), dt. 14-10-1998 notified under section 16(2)(h) the Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ammonia (NH₃) as under:

Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ammonia	
Daily average (Sample duration 24 hrs.)	: 0.4 mg/m ³ (400 g/m ³)
Annual average of 104 samples (2 samples drawn every week)	: 0.1 mg/m ³ (100 g/m ³)

17. Functions of State Board

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, and without prejudice to the performance of its functions, if any, under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974), the functions of a State Board shall be—

- (a) to plan a comprehensive programme for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution and to secure the execution thereof;
- (b) to advise the State Government on any matter concerning the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution;
- (c) to collect and disseminate information relating to air pollution;
- (d) to collaborate with the Central Board in organising the training of persons engaged or to be engaged in programmes relating to prevention, control or abatement of air pollution and to organise mass-education programme relating thereto;
- (e) to inspect, at all reasonable times, any control equipment, industrial plant or manufacturing process and to give, by order, such directions to such persons as it may consider necessary to take steps for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution;
- (f) to inspect air pollution control areas at such intervals as it may think necessary, assess the quality of air therein and take steps for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution in such areas;
- (g) to lay down, in consultation with the Central Board and having regard to the standards for the quality of air laid down by the Central Board, standards for emission of air pollutants into the atmosphere from industrial plants and automobiles or for the discharge of any air pollutant into the atmosphere from any other source whatsoever not being a ship or an aircraft:
 PROVIDED that different standards for emission may be laid down under this clause for different industrial plants having regard to the quantity and composition of emission of air pollutants into the atmosphere from such industrial plants;
- (h) to advise the State Government with respect to the suitability of any premises or location for carrying on any industry which is likely to cause air pollution;
- (i) to perform such other functions as may be prescribed or as may, from time to time, be entrusted to it by the Central Board or the State Government;

- (j) to do such other things and to perform such other acts as it may think necessary for the proper discharge of its functions and generally for the purpose of carrying into effect the purposes of this Act.

(2) A State Board may establish or recognise a laboratory or laboratories to enable the State Board to perform its functions under this section efficiently.

18. Power to give directions

¹[(1)] In the performance of its functions under this Act—

- (a) the Central Board shall be bound by such directions in writing as the Central Government may give to it; and
- (b) every State Board shall be bound by such directions in writing as the Central Board or the State Government may give to it:

PROVIDED that where a direction given by the State Government is inconsistent with the direction given by the Central Board, the matter shall be referred to the Central Government for its decision.

²[(2) Where the Central Government is of the opinion that any State Board has defaulted in complying with any directions given by the Central Board under sub-section (1) and as a result of such default a grave emergency has arisen and it is necessary or expedient so to do in the public interest, it may, by order, direct the Central Board to perform any of the functions of the State Board in relation to such area, for such period and for such purposes, as may be specified in the order.

(3) Where the Central Board performs any of the functions of the State Board in pursuance of a direction under sub-section (2), the expenses, if any, incurred by the Central Board with respect to the performance of such functions may, if the State Board is empowered to recover such expenses, be recovered by the Central Board with interest (at such reasonable rate as the Central Government may, by order, fix) from the date when a demand for such expenses is made until it is paid from the person or persons concerned as arrears of land revenue or of public demand.

(4) For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that any direction to perform the functions of any State Board given under sub-section (2) in respect of any area would not preclude the State Board from performing such functions in any other area in the State or any of its other functions in that area.]

CHAPTER IV

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION

19. Power to declare air pollution control areas

(1) The State Government may, after consultation with the State Board, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare in such manner as may be prescribed, any area or areas within the State as air pollution control area or areas for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The State Government may, after consultation with the State Board, by notification in the Official Gazette,—

¹ Section 18 renumbered as sub-section (1) thereof by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

² Inserted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

- (a) alter any air pollution control area whether by way of extension or reduction;
- (b) declare a new air pollution control area in which may be merged one or more existing air pollution control areas or any part or parts thereof.

(3) If the State Government, after consultation with the State Board, is of opinion that the use of any fuel, other than an approved fuel, in any air pollution control area or part thereof, may cause or is likely to cause air pollution, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, prohibit the use of such fuel in such area or part thereof with effect from such date (being not less than three months from the date of publication of the notification) as may be specified in the notification.

(4) The State Government may, after consultation with the State Board, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that with effect from such date as may be specified therein, no appliance, other than an approved appliance, shall be used in the premises situated in an air pollution control area:

PROVIDED that different dates may be specified for different parts of an air pollution control area or for the use of different appliances.

(5) If the State Government, after consultation with the State Board, is of opinion that the burning of any material (not being fuel) in any air pollution control area or part thereof may cause or is likely to cause air pollution, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, prohibit the burning of such material in such area or part thereof.

20. Power to give instructions for ensuring standards for emission from automobiles

With a view to ensuring that the standards for emission of air pollutants from automobiles laid down by the State Board under clause (g) of sub-section (1) of section 17 are complied with, the State Government shall, in consultation with the State Board, give such instructions as may be deemed necessary to the concerned authority in charge of registration of motor vehicles under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (4 of 1939)¹, and such authority shall, notwithstanding anything contained in that Act or the rules made thereunder be bound to comply with such instructions.

21. Restrictions on use of certain industrial plants

¹[(1) No person shall establish or operate any industrial plant in an air pollution control area unless the previous consent of the State Board has been obtained in pursuance of an application made by such person in accordance with the provisions of this section:

¹ Substituted by the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 (18 of 2023), dt. 11-8-2023, w.e.f. 1-4-2024 vide GSR 757(E), dt. 18-10-2023. Prior to substitution, sub-section (1) read as under: “(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, no person shall, without the previous consent of the State Board, establish or operate any industrial plant in an air pollution control area: PROVIDED that a person operating any industrial plant in any air pollution control area immediately before the commencement of section 9 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987, for which no consent was necessary prior to such commencement, may continue to do so for a period of three months from such commencement or, if he has made an application for such consent within the said period of three months, till the disposal of such application.”

PROVIDED that the Central Government may in consultation with the Central Pollution Control Board, by notification in the Official Gazette, exempt certain categories of industrial plants from the application of the provisions of this sub-section.]

(2) An application for consent of the State Board under sub-section (1) shall be accompanied by such fees as may be prescribed and shall be made in the prescribed form and shall contain the particulars of the industrial plant and such other particulars as may be prescribed:

PROVIDED that where any person, immediately before the declaration of any area as an air pollution control area, operates in such area any industrial plant,¹[x x x] such person shall make the application under this sub-section within such period (being not less than three months from the date of such declaration) as may be prescribed and where such person makes such application, he shall be deemed to be operating such industrial plant with the consent of the State Board until the consent applied for has been refused.

(3) The State Board may make such inquiry as it may deem fit in respect of the application for consent referred to in sub-section (1) and in making any such inquiry, shall follow such procedure as may be prescribed.

(4) Within a period of four months after the receipt of the application for consent referred to in sub-section (1), the State Board shall, by order in writing,²[and for reasons to be recorded in the order, grant the consent applied for subject to such conditions and for such period as may be specified in the order, or refuse such consent:]

³[PROVIDED that it shall be open to the State Board to cancel such consent before the expiry of the period for which it is granted or refuse further consent after such expiry if the conditions subject to which such consent has been granted are not fulfilled:

PROVIDED FURTHER that before cancelling a consent or refusing a further consent under the first proviso, a reasonable opportunity of being heard shall be given to the person concerned.]

(5) Every person to whom consent has been granted by the State Board under sub-section (4) shall comply with the following conditions, namely:—

- (i) the control equipment of such specifications as the State Board may approve in this behalf shall be installed and operated in the premises where the industry is carried on or proposed to be carried on;
- (ii) the existing control equipment, if any, shall be altered or replaced in accordance with the directions of the State Board;
- (iii) the control equipment referred to in clause (i) or clause (ii) shall be kept at all times in good running condition;

1 Words "for the purpose of any industry specified in the Schedule" omitted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

2 Substituted for "either grant or refuse, for reasons to be recorded in the order, the consent applied for" by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

3 Inserted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

- (iv) chimney, wherever necessary, of such specifications as the State Board may approve in this behalf shall be erected or re-erected in such premises;
- (v) such other conditions as the State Board may specify in this behalf; and
- (vi) the conditions referred to in clauses (i), (ii) and (iv) shall be complied with within such period as the State Board may specify in this behalf:

PROVIDED that in the case of a person operating any industrial plant ¹[x x x] in an air pollution control area immediately before the date of declaration of such area as an air pollution control area, the period so specified shall not be less than six months:

PROVIDED FURTHER that—

- (a) after the installation of any control equipment in accordance with the specifications under clause (i); or
- (b) after the alteration or replacement of any control equipment in accordance with the directions of the State Board under clause (ii); or
- (c) after the erection or re-erection of any chimney under clause (iv),

no control equipment or chimney shall be altered or replaced or, as the case may be, erected or re-erected except with the prior approval of the State Board.

(6) If due to any technological improvement or otherwise the State Board is of opinion that all or any of the conditions referred to in sub-section (5) require or requires variation (including the change of any control equipment, either in whole or in part), the State Board shall, after giving the person to whom consent has been granted an opportunity of being heard, vary all or any of such conditions and thereupon such person shall be bound to comply with the conditions as so varied.

(7) Where a person to whom consent has been granted by the State Board under sub-section (4) transfers his interest in the industry to any other person, such consent shall be deemed to have been granted to such other person and he shall be bound to comply with all the conditions subject to which it was granted as if the consent was granted to him originally.

²[21A. Power to issue guidelines

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board, may, by notification in the Official Gazette, issue guidelines on the matters relating to the grant, refusal or cancellation of consent by any State Board to establish or operate any industrial plant in an air pollution control area, including the mechanism for time bound disposal of the application made under section 21 or validity period of such consent.

(2) Every State Board, in discharge of its functions for the purposes of grant, refusal or cancellation of consent under section 21 shall act in accordance with the guidelines issued under sub-section (1).]

¹ Words “for the purpose of any industry specified in the Schedule” omitted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

² Inserted by the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 (18 of 2023), dt. 11-8-2023, w.e.f. 1-4-2024 vide GSR 757(E), dt. 18-10-2023.

22. Person carrying on industry, etc. not to allow emission of air pollutants in excess of the standards laid down by State Board

No person ¹[x x x] operating any industrial plant, in any air pollution control area shall discharge or cause or permit to be discharged the emission of any air pollutant in excess of the standards laid down by the State Board under clause (9) of sub-section (1) of section 17.

²22A. Power of Board to make application to court for restraining persons from causing air pollution

(1) Where it is apprehended by a Board that emission of any air pollutant, in excess of the standards laid down by the State Board under clause (g) of sub-section (1) of section 17, is likely to occur by reason of any person operating an industrial plant or otherwise in any air pollution control area, the Board may make an application to a court, not inferior to that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class for restraining such person from emitting such air pollutant.

(2) On receipt of the application under sub-section (1), the court may make such order as it deems fit.

(3) Where under sub-section (2), the court makes an order restraining any person from discharging or causing or permitting to be discharged the emission of any air pollutant, it may, in that order, —

- (a) direct such person to desist from taking such action as is likely to cause emission;
- (b) authorise the Board, if the direction under clause (a) is not complied with by the person to whom such direction is issued, to implement the direction in such manner as may be specified by the court.

(4) All expenses incurred by the Board in implementing the directions of the court under clause (b) of sub-section (3) shall be recoverable from the person concerned as arrears of land revenue or of public demand.]

23. Furnishing of information to State Board and other agencies in certain cases

(1) Where in any ³[xxx] area the emission of any air pollutant into the atmosphere in excess of the standards laid down by the State Board occurs or is apprehended to occur due to accident or other unforeseen act or event, the person in charge of the premises from where such emission occurs or is apprehended to occur shall forthwith intimate the fact of such occurrence or the apprehension of such occurrence to the State Board and to such authorities or agencies as may be prescribed.

(2) On receipt of information with respect to the fact or the apprehension of any occurrence of the nature referred to in sub-section (1), whether through intimation under that sub-section or otherwise, the State Board and the authorities or agencies shall, as early as practicable, cause such remedial measures to be taken as are necessary to mitigate the emission of such air pollutants.

1 Words "carrying on any industry specified in the Schedule or" omitted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

2 Inserted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

3 Words "air pollution control" omitted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

(3) Expenses, if any, incurred by the State Board, authority or agency with respect to the remedial measures referred to in sub-section (2) together with interest (at such reasonable rate, as the State Government may, by order, fix) from the date when a demand for the expenses is made until it is paid, may be recovered by that Board, authority or agency from the person concerned, as arrears of land revenue, or of public demand.

24. Power of entry and inspection

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, any person empowered by a State Board in this behalf shall have a right to enter, at all reasonable times with such assistance as he considers necessary, any place,—

- (a) for the purpose of performing any of the functions of the State Board entrusted to him;
- (b) for the purpose of determining whether and if so in what manner, any such functions are to be performed or whether any provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder or any notice, order, direction or authorisation served, made, given or granted under this Act is being or has been complied with;
- (c) for the purpose of examining and testing any control equipment, industrial plant, record, register, document or any other material object or for conducting a search of any place in which he has reason to believe that an offence under this Act or the rules made thereunder has been or is being or is about to be committed and for seizing any such control equipment, industrial plant, record, register, document or other material object if he has reasons to believe that it may furnish evidence of the commission of an offence punishable under this Act or the rules made thereunder.

(2) Every person ¹[x x] operating any control equipment or any industrial plant, in an air pollution control area shall be bound to render all assistance to the person empowered by the State Board under sub-section (1) for carrying out the functions under that sub-section and if he fails to do so without any reasonable cause or excuse, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

(3) If any person wilfully delays or obstructs any person empowered by the State Board under sub-section (1) in the discharge of his duties, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

(4) The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), or, in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, or any area in which that Code is not in force, the provisions of any corresponding law in force in that State or area, shall, so far as may be, apply to any search or seizure under this section as they apply to any search or seizure made under the authority of a warrant issued under section 94 of the said Code or, as the case may be, under the corresponding provisions of the said law.

¹ Words “carrying on any industry specified in the Schedule and every person” omitted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

25. Power to obtain information

For the purposes of carrying out the functions entrusted to it, the State Board or any officer empowered by it in that behalf may call for any information (including information regarding the types of air pollutants emitted into the atmosphere and the level of the emission of such air pollutants) from the occupier or any other person carrying on any industry or operating any control equipment or industrial plant and for the purpose of verifying the correctness of such information, the State Board or such officer shall have the right to inspect the premises where such industry, control equipment or industrial plant is being carried on or operated.

26. Power to take samples of air or emission and procedure to be followed in connection therewith

(1) A State Board or any officer empowered by it in this behalf shall have power to take, for the purpose of analysis, samples of air or emission from any chimney, flue or duct or any other outlet in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The result of any analysis of a sample of emission taken under sub-section (1) shall not be admissible in evidence in any legal proceeding unless the provisions of sub-sections (3) and (4) are complied with.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (4), when a sample of emission is taken for analysis under sub-section (1), the person taking the sample shall—

- (a) serve on the occupier or his agent, a notice, then and there, in such form as may be prescribed, of his intention to have it so analysed;
- (b) in the presence of the occupier or his agent, collect a sample of emission for analysis;
- (c) cause the sample to be placed in a container or containers which shall be marked and sealed and shall also be signed both by the person taking the sample and the occupier or his agent;
- (d) send, without delay, the container or containers to the laboratory established or recognised by the State Board under section 17 or, if a request in that behalf is made by the occupier or his agent when the notice is served on him under clause (a), to the laboratory established or specified under sub-section (1) of section 28.

(4) When a sample of emission is taken for analysis under sub-section (1) and the person taking the sample serves on the occupier or his agent, a notice under clause (a) of sub-section (3), then,—

- (a) in a case where the occupier or his agent wilfully absents himself, the person taking the sample shall collect the sample of emission for analysis to be placed in a container or containers which shall be marked and sealed and shall also be signed by the person taking the sample; and
- (b) in a case where the occupier or his agent is present at the time of taking the sample but refuses to sign the marked and sealed container or containers of the sample of emission as required under clause (c) of sub-section (3), the marked and sealed container or containers shall be signed by the person taking the sample,

and the container or containers shall be sent without delay by the person taking the sample for analysis to the laboratory established or specified under sub-section (1) of section 28 and such person shall inform the government analyst appointed under sub-section (1) of section 29, in writing, about the wilful absence of the occupier or his agent, or, as the case may be, his refusal to sign the container or containers.

27. Reports of the result of analysis on samples taken under section 26

(1) Where a sample of emission has been sent for analysis to the laboratory established or recognised by the State Board, the Board analyst appointed under sub-section (2) of section 29 shall analyse the sample and submit a report in the prescribed form of such analysis in triplicate to the State Board.

(2) On receipt of the report under sub-section (1), one copy of the report shall be sent by the State Board to the occupier or his agent referred to in section 26, another copy shall be preserved for production before the court in case any legal proceedings are taken against him and the other copy shall be kept by the State Board.

(3) Where a sample has been sent for analysis under clause (d) of sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) of section 26 to any laboratory mentioned therein, the government analyst referred to in the said sub-section (4) shall analyse the sample and submit a report in the prescribed form of the result of the analysis in triplicate to the State Board which shall comply with the provisions of sub-section (2).

(4) Any cost incurred in getting any sample analysed at the request of the occupier or his agent as provided in clause (d) of sub-section (3) of section 26 or when he wilfully absents himself or refuses to sign the marked and sealed container or containers of sample of emission under sub-section (4) of that section, shall be payable by such occupier or his agent and in case of default the same shall be recoverable from him as arrears of land revenue or of public demand.

28. State Air Laboratory

(1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, —

- (a) establish one or more State Air Laboratories; or
- (b) specify one or more laboratories or institutes as State Air Laboratories to carry out the functions entrusted to the State Air Laboratory under this Act.

(2) The State Government may, after consultation with the State Board, make rules prescribing, —

- (a) the functions of the State Air Laboratory;
- (b) the procedure for the submission to the said laboratory of samples of air or emission for analysis or tests, the form of the laboratory's report thereon and the fees payable in respect of such report;
- (c) such other matters as may be necessary or expedient to enable that laboratory to carry out its functions.

29. Analysts

(1) The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint such persons as it thinks fit and having the prescribed qualifications to be government analysts for the purpose of analysis of samples of air or emission sent for analysis to any laboratory established or specified under sub-section (1) of section 28.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of section 14, the State Board may, by notification in the Official Gazette, and with the approval of the State Government, appoint such persons as it thinks fit and having the prescribed qualifications to be Board analysts for the purpose of analysis of samples of air or emission sent for analysis to any laboratory established or recognised under section 17.

30. Reports of analysts

Any document purporting to be a report signed by a government analyst or, as the case may be, a State Board analyst may be used as evidence of the facts stated therein in any proceeding under this Act.

31. Appeals

(1) Any person aggrieved by an order made by the State Board under this Act may, within thirty days from the date on which the order is communicated to him, prefer an appeal to such authority (hereinafter referred to as the Appellate Authority) as the State Government may think fit to constitute:

PROVIDED that the Appellate Authority may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if such authority is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

(2) The Appellate Authority shall consist of a single person or three persons as the State Government may think fit to be appointed by the State Government.

(3) The form and the manner in which an appeal may be preferred under sub-section (1), the fees payable for such appeal and the procedure to be followed by the Appellate Authority shall be such as may be prescribed.

(4) On receipt of an appeal preferred under sub-section (1), the Appellate Authority shall, after giving the appellant and the State Board an opportunity of being heard, dispose of the appeal as expeditiously as possible.

¹[31A. Power to give directions

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, but subject to the provisions of this Act and to any directions that the Central Government may give in this behalf, a Board may, in the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions under this Act, issue any directions in writing to any person, officer or authority, and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions.

Explanation : For the avoidance of doubts, it is hereby declared that the power to issue directions under this section includes the power to direct—

- (a) the closure, prohibition or regulation of any industry, operation or process; or

¹ Inserted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.

- (b) the stoppage or regulation of supply of electricity, water or any other service.]

¹[31B. Appeal to National Green Tribunal

Any person aggrieved by an order or decision of the Appellate Authority under section 31, made on or after the commencement of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, may file an appeal to the National Green Tribunal established under section 3 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, in accordance with the provisions of that Act.]

CHAPTER V

FUND, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

32. Contributions by Central Government

The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, make in each financial year such contributions to the State Boards as it may think necessary to enable the State Boards to perform their functions under this Act:

PROVIDED that nothing in this section shall apply to any ²[State Pollution Control Board] constituted under section 4 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974), which is empowered by that Act to expend money from its fund thereunder also for performing its functions, under any law for the time being in force relating to the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution.

33. Fund of Board

(1) Every State Board shall have its own fund for the purposes of this Act and all sums which may, from time to time, be paid to it by the Central Government and all other receipts (by way of contributions, if any, from the State Government, fees, gifts, grants, donations, benefactions or otherwise) of that Board shall be carried to the fund of the Board and all payments by the Board shall be made therefrom.

(2) Every State Board may expend such sums as it thinks fit for performing its functions under this Act and such sums shall be treated as expenditure payable out of the fund of that Board.

(3) Nothing in this section shall apply to any ¹[State Pollution Control Board] constituted under section 4 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974), which is empowered by that Act to expend money from its fund thereunder also for performing its functions, under any law for the time being in force relating to the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution.

³[33A. Borrowing powers of Board

A Board may, with the consent of, or in accordance with the terms of any general or special authority given to it by, the Central Government or, as the case may be, the State Government, borrow money from any source by way of loans or issue of bonds, debentures or such other instruments, as it may deem fit, for discharging all or any of its functions under this Act.]

¹ Inserted by Act 19 of 2010, dt. 2-6-2010, w.e.f. 18-10-2010 vide SO 2569(E), dt. 18-10-2010.

² Substituted for "State Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution" by Act 47 of 1987.

³ Inserted by Act 47 of 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1988.