

Strengthening of SPCBs: New Challenges

Draft

Presentation by

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Background

- 1974 SPCB Formation under Water Act
- Additional responsibilities :
 - 1977
 - 1981
 - 1987
 - 1988
 - 1989 onwards: Rules under Environment Protection Act, 1986, viz. HW, HC, MSW, BMW, E-waste, Plastics, CRZ, Batteries, Fly Ash, Chemical Accidents, EC/EIA etc.

Historical Efforts in Strengthening

- 1981 Mehta Committee
- Reports on strengthening of State Pollution Control Boards:
 - The Bhattacharya Committee, 1984
 - The Belliappa Committee, 1990
 - The ASCI Study, 1994
 - Planning Commission, 2000
 - Menon Committee , 2002
 - SC Order, Oct, 2003
 - MoEF Directions to all CSs, July, 2005
 - SCMC report, March, 2007
 - 192nd Report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Sc. Tech. Env. & Forests laid on the Table of Lok Sabha, 21.10.2008
 - Orders from HC & NGT
- But, business is as usual, till yet another awakening in Sept, 2014.

Hitches in the current EC process (reformed in 2006)

- Reforms are more cumbersome and they do not have edge over the earlier procedure. Now time allowed is 112 days. This defeats the basic purpose of the reforms.
- New procedure for grant of environmental clearance does not ensure expeditious decision and most importantly, diminishes the role of State Governments/State Pollution Control Boards.
- The concentration of decision making at the Central level causes delay the implementation of development projects – so vital for the growth of State.

Hitches in the current EC process (reformed in 2006)

- States need to be given more powers and role of MoEF should be envisaged more as facilitator rather than controlling the development in the States.
- Post EC surveillance and monitoring is not effective. MoEF is too much dependent on SPCBs.
- Requirement of “Consent to Establish” and report on “Public Hearing” by SPCB before submission of application for EC by the project proponent has been removed. This was helping in sorting out many issues before the case is considered for EC.
- Collector is made Chairman of Public Hearing. Due to his preoccupation there are delays. Earlier it was with SPCBs. SPCBs were mandated to complete PH in 45 days.

Vision for SPCB

“Improvement in Board’s
Functional Efficiency,
Transparency in Operations and
Adequate Response to Growing
Needs of Environmental
Protection and
Sustainable Development
in the **State**

(Adopted by MPCB in 2004)



Goals and Priority Areas of Action

- Strengthening infrastructure including skilled manpower to meet the growing requirements & public expectations
- Fast track mechanism for clearance of public complaints / grievances and consents
- Securing compliance of environmental standards through enforcement of laws.
- Increased sensitivity and time bound action plans for translating political decisions into fruitful gains for environment and development of the State

Goals and Priority Areas of Action

- Improved responsiveness to the public and to promote their partnership in environment protection and development
- Environmental emergency response centre to deal with accidents
- Environmental planning and zoning based on environmental considerations
- Strengthening of water and air quality monitoring network so that data generated is gainfully utilized.

Goals and Priority Areas of Action

- Developing effective co-ordination and cooperation with other departments of Central and State Government to nurture systematic working relationship in implementation of programs on pollution control & environment protection
- Organizational reforms, proper career planning and improvement in working conditions of scientists and engineers in the Board.
- Climate Change and Impacts
- Clean technology and waste Minimisation

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2014-2019

1. **Strategic Action Plan (SAP):**

- State Pollution Control Boards to prepare Strategic Action Plan for next 20 years [e.g. MPCB, APPCB] and implement systematically over the period of time.

2. **Internal Capacity Building:**

- The Supreme Court of India in its order dated 14.10.2003 (CWP 657 of 1995) directed the State Governments for internal capacity building among the State Pollution Control Boards so that they are better placed for implementation of the Court orders
- Organisational review and ICB Need Assessment done by CRISIL for MPCB and by IIM Lucknow for CPCB. Others need to follow.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2014-2019

3. Area Specific Action Plan

- Certain areas in the State facing severe problems due to environmental pollution. Therefore, concerted efforts are required for amelioration.
- Action plans to be prepared by the Board for prevention and control of pollution within the stipulated time frame and through involvement of various stake holders.

4. Industry Specific Action

- Consolidation of success achieved in setting up of common infrastructure for pollution control. CHWT SDF, CETP, BMW T SDF, Waste Recovery Units in industrial areas.
- Sponge iron industries, Iron scrap and steel processing units and molasses based distilleries are lacking in meeting norms of pollution control and environment protection. Proactive Actions are required.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2014-2019

5. **Public Opinion Regarding Development of Infrastructure and Core Industry**

- Many projects are affected due to public agitation arising out of concern for effects on environment
- Special efforts are necessary to create an interface between the project proponent and the people affected by project for mitigation and abatement of environmental impacts.
- The said interface will have to be above the board comprising of credible persons from technical, social and political field.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2014-2019

6. **Public Participation in Pollution Control Programs**

- State wide programs will have to be evolved providing opportunity for public participation in pollution control programs. For example: management of house hold wastes in colonies by residents association or NGOs etc, plantation, rain water harvesting, waste recycling, conservation, mass awareness, monitoring etc.
- Technical and financial support by the Board.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2014-2019

7. **Environmental Improvement at Religious Places**

- Many religious places facing problems of environmental degradation due pressure from large number of devotees.
- Area specific action plans are required for the management of municipal solid wastes and sewage, hospital wastes, traffic management, community toilets, plantation, beautification of roads, providing green areas, water supply and conservation etc.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

8. Pollution Assessment and Monitoring of Coastal Water

- The coastline of about 6500 km is under pressure from population and development projects. Industrial and domestic effluents are discharged causing problems of pollution and environmental degradation.
- Strengthening of existing action plans and location specific plans are necessary for prevention and control of pollution in the coastal areas.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

9. Studies on Incidence of Asthma due to Air Pollution in Cities

- There are reports indicating increased incidence of asthma due to air pollution, especially among the children.
- Scientific assessment of health impacts of air pollution in cities is urgently required through a systematic study over a period of time.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

10. Strengthening of Air Quality Monitoring Network

- Air quality monitoring network needs to be upgraded and increased in numbers to meet the requirement.
- The air quality data have to be published for public information and used for planning of programs on prevention and control of air pollution in cities.
- Mathematical modelling of air quality data for prediction and warning

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

11. Rejuvenation of NGC Activities

- National Green Corps activities (a scheme of Central Government) needs to be rejuvenated and reorganized in the schools.
- Activities could include : Remediation of degraded lands & ground water, water conservation, rain water harvesting, low cost sanitation, sewage treatment and recycling/reuse of treated water etc.
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Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

12. Green Budget

- Internalising environment protection in the sectoral plans and programs for economic development and public welfare.
- Departments need to be sensitised for greening of their budget.
- Environment Advisor for each Ministry / Department at Centre and State level

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

13. Environmental Technology Promotion and Financing Corporation (ETPFC)

- ETPFC may be set up by the State Government to promote environmentally desirable technologies with a funding mechanism established and supported through private investments.
- ETPFC can also promote and facilitate common infrastructure for environment protection by public-private partnership on build-operate-own basis. For example: CETP, Treatment and Disposal facilities for industrial, domestic and hospital wastes.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

14. Environmentally Biased Program for Woman and Children

- Sectoral Programs for improved health and environment involving women and children in urban and rural areas. (e.g. drinking water, water harvesting, plantation, health & hygiene etc.)
- Institutionalisation of Technical and financial support.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

15. Mobilization of Millions of Young People for Protection of Environment

- Nehru Science Centre, State Level Vidyan Parishads, NSS, NCC and other voluntary youth organisations can be networked for taking up activities of nature conservation and environment protection.
- Technical and financial support by the SPCBs.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

16. Disaster Management Centre

- Internal capacity building and infrastructure for management of chemical accidents This should also include Poison Centre for research and development.

Proposals and Programs Suggested for the years 2010-2015

17. Coastal Zone Management

- Identification of ecologically sensitive areas in the Coastal Regulation Zone and formulate area-specific environmental management plans.
- Identification of degraded coastal areas and formulation of management plans.
- Identify economically important stretches in Coastal Regulation Zone and prepare -Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans for the same.

Proposals and Programs Suggested
for the years 2010-2015

18. Climate Change and Global Warming

- Impacts on agriculture
- Identify highly vulnerable coastal areas
- Mass Awareness
- Formulate area specific management plans
- Setting up of Study Group of Experts.

Challenges : Water

- Proper functioning of effluent treatment plants is must for controlling water pollution
- Institutionalization is necessary for ensuring proper functioning of ETPs
- Certified and well trained army of ETP operators is required
- Involvement of private sector and educational institutes is required in each State.

Challenges : Air

- Decentralization and outsourcing of Air Monitoring (Stack Emission and Ambient Air)
- Short term and long term programs for achieving Zero Discharge from APCDs
- Controlling Air Pollution in cities

Challenges : MSW

- Techno-business model for Class I cities: Localized solution for each city using BATNEEC (Best Available Technologies Not Entailing Excessive Costs)
- Benchmarking of technologies
- Selection and application of environmentally sound technology depending upon quantity of MSW generation, availability of market for recycled project, tipping fee, public acceptance, etc.

Challenges : HW

- National inventory of contaminated sites prepared by CPCB
- Action Plan required for remediation and/or Clean-up of sites contaminated due to disposal of industrial wastes
- On-line tracking of waste movement

Challenges : BMW

- Improvement in compliance of environmental regulations for treatment and disposal of BMW
- Improvement in treatment technology of autoclave and incinerator
- Disposal of BMW in HW incinerator
- Monitoring mechanism for “Deep Burial” process
- Common facility for treatment and disposal of BMW:
Policy – Less nos. of facilities with higher capacity preferred due to techno-economic viability for application of EST. Regional facilities should be considered.

Environment Surveillance

- GPS based environmental surveillance
- Outsourcing: accredited individuals / agencies on the lines of IFS
- Self reporting
- Web based real time availability of industrial emission data

Common Infrastructure for Environment Protection

- Development of techno-economically viable PPP business model for recycling of wastes: e.g. debris, plastic, pen-cell batteries, e-waste,
- Inclusion of Acid recovery plants, solvent recovery units, multiple effect evaporator and water recycling as elements of CETP
- Setting up SPV to facilitate PPP
- Promotion of CETP. CHWTSDF, CFBMW

Water CESS

- Fast track mechanism for release of cess funds to SPCBs
- Revision of rates
- Strengthening of assessment and collection system
- Delegation of power to SPCB to prosecute violators
- Simplification of criteria for penal rates and concessional rates
- Utilization of CESS for non-plan activities
- Accelerated disposal of appeals

Policy & Law

- State Environment Protection Authority for implementation of all Pollution Control Acts and the Environment (Protection) Act. SPCBs can be
- IT Based, online system for issuance of consent, authorization, filing of returns, etc.
- Disposal time reduce to 30 days
- Sectoral initiatives for control of pollution viz. sponge iron, induction furnace, pesticides, power plants, distilleries, tanneries, chemicals and petrochemicals etc.

Infrastructure Laboratories

- Up-gradation of existing laboratories
- Setting up of new labs at district level
- Strengthening in terms of qualified manpower
- Training and Quality Improvement Program
- Strengthening of infrastructure laboratories for HAP, VOC and calibration of instruments.
- Analysis report within 15 days

Revamping the Organisational Structure of the Board

- State Environment Protection Authority
- Technical Chairman
- Technical Member Secretary
- Full time Expert Director, one each for :
 - Water,
 - Air, and Urban Transport related issues
 - Waste Management & Recycling, (HWM/BMW/Plastics/Batteries/MSW)
 - Environment Act & Rules (EC, CRZ)
 - Policy & Law,
 - Infrastructure Laboratories,
 - Surveillance & Monitoring

Reform Functional Structure of the Board

- Decentralization by delegation of powers
- Establishment of new Regional Offices to meet requirements.
- Improve service conditions . Pension, health, education benefits should be at par with Central/State Government employees.
- Office automation and networking / online accounts]
- Increased mobility and communication



Thanks

Please send comments/suggestions to:

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