



Environment and Forest Department

Policy Note 2004-2005

Demand No.14

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

4. TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

4.1. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, established in 1982, enforces the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 as amended, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended and the relevant provisions/rules of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent, control and abate pollution and for protection of environment. The pollution control laws and rules are as follows,

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1978 and 1988.
- The Tamil Nadu Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1983.
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 as amended in 1991 and 2003.
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Rules, 1978 as amended in 1992.
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1987.
- The Tamil Nadu Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1983.
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
- The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003.
- The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000.
- The Bio-Medical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 as amended in 2000 and 2003.
- The Recycled Plastic Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 as amended in 2003.
- The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000.
- The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.
- The Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001.

The Board functions with its Head Office at Chennai. There are 25 District Offices at Chennai, Coimbatore, Vellore, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Ambattur, Tambaram, Vaniyambadi, Hosur, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Karur, Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Thirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Uthagamandalam, Nagercoil, Pudukkottai, Villupuram and Nagapattinam.

The Board has established 3 Advanced Environmental Laboratories at Chennai, Salem and Madurai, 10 District Environmental Laboratories at Ambattur, Vellore, Cuddalore, Tiruchirapalli, Dindigul, Thirunelveli, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Hosur and Manali and one Mobile Environmental Laboratory at Thoothukudi.

4.2. Interaction with other departments

The Board interacts with other concerned departments/ institutions to take a coordinated action for the protection of environment. The Board extends effective assistance to local bodies in urban solid waste management, by providing training and technical assistance.

4.3. Monitoring of industrial pollution

With the increasing pace of industrialisation in Tamil Nadu, the need for continuous monitoring of pollution from industrial sources has become significant. All industries have to take necessary pollution control measures to meet the standards prescribed by the Board. The field officers of the Board periodically inspect every industry under their jurisdiction to assess the adequacy of pollution control measures provided to treat the effluent and gaseous emissions. For effective monitoring, the Board has classified the industries into red, orange and green, based on their pollution characteristics.

4.4. Procedure for issue of consent

The Board has laid down effluent standards, ambient air quality and emission standards. The Board issues consent to industries in two stages under the Water Act and the Air Act for establishment and operation of industrial units. Consent to establish is issued depending upon the suitability of the site, before the industry takes up the construction activity. Consent to operate is issued after installation of effluent treatment plant and air pollution control measures, before commissioning production. While issuing consent, the Board specifies the standards to be complied with by the industrial units. Consent order issued to industrial units includes in addition to primary conditions relating to emission and effluent, the conditions regarding obtaining ISO 14001 certificate (Environmental Management System), green belt development, rain water harvesting facilities, maintenance of Government health institutions, vehicle maintenance and responsible contracting of vehicles, good house keeping including non-use of throwaway plastics.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India notified the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per the notification, 30 types of industries scheduled therein have to obtain the environmental clearance from the Government of India. As per the amendment dated 10.4.1997 issued in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, the Government of Tamil Nadu issued orders for constituting public hearing panels to consider the views of the public on these projects. Public hearings are being conducted from the month of May 1998 onwards in the respective District Collectorates for the applications received for setting up certain specified industries/projects. As on 31.03.2004, 242 public hearings have been conducted. On receipt of the recommendations of the public hearing panels constituted, the Board considers the issue of no objection certificate to those industries/projects. With the no objection certificate of the Board and the Environmental Impact Assessment report, the proponents have to approach the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India for obtaining environmental clearance. After production of environmental clearance obtained from the Government of India, consent to establish is issued by the Board.

The Board has granted 4,132 consent orders for establishment of industries under the Water Act and 4,068 consent orders for establishment of industries under the Air Act from 1995-1996 upto 31.03.2004. It has

granted 21,659 consent orders to industries to operate under the Water Act and 18,829 consent orders to industries to operate under the Air Act from 1982-1983 upto 31.03.2004.

4.5. Complaints and legal action

As on 31.03.2004, the Board has issued 28,793 show cause notices and 4,279 closure orders to industrial units for not complying with the conditions stipulated by the Board. The Board has filed 321 cases under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and 134 cases under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended against the erring industries for the contravention of pollution control laws.

4.6. 17 Categories of Highly Polluting Industries

The Board has a special monitoring cell at its head office, Chennai to monitor the 17 categories of highly polluting industries, specified by the Government of India. 190 large and medium units have been identified under 17 categories of highly polluting industries and these are being closely monitored by the Board.

4.7. Common Effluent Treatment Plants

The Board plays an important role in the establishment of common effluent treatment plants for clusters of small polluting industries in various parts of the State. Tamil Nadu is a pioneering State in India in establishing common effluent treatment plants. So far, proposals for 50 common effluent treatment plant schemes have been formulated. Of these, 33 Common Effluent Treatment Plant schemes are under operation and 17 common effluent treatment plant schemes are under various stages of implementation. The details of common effluent treatment plant schemes are as follows,

Sl. No.	Sector	Number of Common Effluent Treatment Plants Formed	Number of Common Effluent Treatment Plants Under Operation
1	Tanneries	24 schemes	14 schemes
2	Textile Bleaching and Dyeing	25 schemes	18 schemes
3	Hotels and Lodging Houses	1 scheme	1 scheme
	Total	50 schemes	33 schemes

14 common effluent treatment plants at Pammal, SIDCO-Ranipet, SIPCOT Phase-II Ranipet, Vaniyambadi (Valayampet), Vaniyambadi (Udayenthiram), Ranipet (V.C.Mottur), Ranipet (Melpudupet), Ambur (Thuthipet), Ambur (Maligaihoppu), Pernambut (Bakkalapalli), Melvisharam, Dindigul, Madhavaram and Tiruchirapalli (Ramji Nagar) covering 624 tanneries have been commissioned. 18 common effluent treatment plants at Veerapandi, Chinnakkarai, Kasipalayam, Kunnangalpalayam, Andipalayam, Mannarai, Angeripalayam and Manickampurampudur in Tiruppur area, Karuppampalayam, Amaravathi Nagar, Thirumanilaiyur, Sukkaliyur, Ramakrishnapuram, Light house area, Sellandipalayam and Andankoil in Karur area, Ayyampet-Muthialpet in Kancheepuram district and at Perundurai in Erode district covering 817 textile

bleaching and dyeing units have been commissioned. One common effluent treatment plant for 90 hotels and lodging houses at Kodaikkanal has also been commissioned.

Towards the implementation of common effluent treatment plants, State subsidy is granted by Government of Tamil Nadu, upto 25% of the project cost and Central subsidy is granted by Government of India, upto 25% of the project cost. The Board, after receiving the subsidy amount from Government, releases the amount to individual common effluent treatment plants based on the progress of the work.

The Board has so far received Rs.25.90 crores from the Government of Tamil Nadu towards subsidy for 48 common effluent treatment plants and released Rs.22.66 crores as on 31.03.2003. During 2003-2004, State subsidy of Rs. 28.83 lakhs has been granted. The Government of Tamil Nadu have also released Rs.6.77 crores as state subsidy for 9 more common effluent treatment plants through Tamil Nadu Leather Development Corporation as 25% of the project cost.

The Government of India has so far sanctioned Rs. 20.60 crores as Central subsidy to 48 common effluent treatment plants in Tamil Nadu and released the same through the Board, Tamil Nadu Leather Development Corporation and Industrial Development Bank of India. The Board has so far received Central subsidy of Rs. 12.84 crores and released Rs. 11.65 crores to common effluent treatment plants. Government of India has released Rs 4.29 crores through Tamil Nadu Leather Development Corporation and Rs. 3.47 crores through Industrial Development Bank of India to the common effluent treatment plants. Out of the Rs. 20.60 crores sanctioned by Government of India, Rs. 19.40 crores has thus been released.

4.8. Cleaner Technologies

With active support and encouragement from the Board, industrial units in Tamil Nadu have started switching over to cleaner technologies such as adoption of membrane cell instead of mercury cell in caustic soda manufacturing, adoption of dry process instead of wet process to reduce air pollution in cement factories, adoption of double conversion and double absorption technology in sulphuric acid manufacturing, gas carburising instead of cyanide salts in heat treatment and cyanide free electroplating. Pulp and paper industries are being encouraged to go in for elemental chlorine free bleaching to reduce the formation of organo-chlorides including dioxins. Industries consuming ozone depleting substances are systematically changing to environment friendly compounds.

The common effluent treatment plant at Perundurai for textile dyeing units has provided on-line total dissolved solids monitoring device in the raw wash water line to automatically divert the high total dissolved solids (more than 2,100 mg/lit) effluent for evaporation along with the segregated dye bath effluent.

Major industries have been asked to get the ISO 14001 certificates, which are awarded for adoption of best environmental management systems in their plants. During the last three years 102 industries have obtained ISO 14001 certification. 83 industries are in the process of getting the certificates.

4.9. Waste minimisation

With the adoption of cleaner technologies, there has been progress in waste recovery and waste minimisation. Examples include recovery of materials such as chrome from tannery effluent and ammonia from fertilizers. Out of 15 distilleries, 13 distilleries have gone for biocomposting of their effluents with press mud of sugar factories for achieving zero discharge of trade effluent. 2 distilleries are not in operation at present. 12 textile dyeing units at Tiruppur have provided reverse osmosis system and salt recovery plant for reusing in the process.

4.10. Water conservation

As a water conservation measure, three major industries in Manali and Basin Bridge area are utilising about 25mld of city sewage in their plants after tertiary treatment for cooling purposes. A major petroleum refinery unit at Manali, 12 textile dyeing units at Tiruppur and 2 tanneries at Ambur have provided reverse osmosis plants for recovering the process water from the effluent. The recovered water is reused in the process. In sugar industries, water condensate from evaporators is reused.

4.11. Energy conservation

As a measure for fuel conservation and recovery, all the distilleries are recovering methane gas from their spent wash through anaerobic digestion. Major sugar factories have installed co-generation power plants. The sago units recover methane gas from their trade effluent through anaerobic digestion. A tannery in Melvisharam has installed a power generator using methane recovered from anaerobic digestion of fleshings from tannery. Other industrial units are encouraged to use less energy and this is being audited through the environmental statements of the unit.

4.12. Air Quality Monitoring

With the increased industrial and commercial activities in the vicinity of major cities, the ambient air quality is affected by emissions from the industries and from the ever increasing vehicular population. As per the provisions of the Air Act, the entire State of Tamil Nadu has been declared as air pollution control area.

4.13. Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

The Board is monitoring the ambient air quality in Chennai (3 stations), Coimbatore (3 stations), Thoothukudi (3 stations), Madurai (3 stations) and Salem (1 station) under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. Under the State Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme, the Board has established 5 ambient air quality monitoring stations in Chennai city and 5 in Tiruchirapalli. The programmes monitor the air quality in residential, commercial and sensitive zones of the cities. The results of the programme are published every week in leading newspapers.

The major industrial complexes, especially the clusters of chemical industries, are being monitored continuously. With this in view, the Board has established 6 continuous ambient air quality monitoring systems at Cuddalore, Thoothukudi, Ranipet, Manali-Thiruvallur, Royapuram-Chennai, Kathivakkam-Thiruvallur at a cost of around Rs.40 lakhs each to assess the level of pollutants such as suspended particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, ammonia, chlorine, flourine, etc. in the ambient air and the adequacy of air pollution control measures provided by the industries. The Board instructs the concerned

industrial units to improve the air pollution control measures, whenever the levels exceed the standards prescribed.

During the current year, towards strengthening of air quality monitoring, the activities of establishing one automatic continuous ambient air quality monitoring centre at Koyambedu in Chennai city, setting up of new manually operated high volume samplers in Madurai, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichy and Tirunelveli at a total cost of Rs. 72 lakh and providing flue gas analysers to Board's laboratories at a cost of Rs. 39 lakh are under process.

Highly polluting industries have been directed to establish their own continuous air quality monitoring systems. These units have also been asked to set up continuous stack monitoring systems with computer recording arrangements so as to monitor emissions at the source itself. 42 industries have already installed these air quality monitoring systems. Self monitoring by industries through these mechanisms is being encouraged.

4.14. Vehicle Emission Monitoring

Urbanisation and industrialisation have resulted in increased vehicular traffic in cities, resulting in increase in automobile emissions and toxic smoke emissions. The Board is carrying out the vehicle emission monitoring since 1992 for testing the emissions from goods transport vehicles in Chennai city in 3 locations at Alandur, Ambattur and Vyasarpadi. In addition, 120 private agencies have been authorised by the Transport Department in Chennai city to check the emission level of the vehicles. Further, the Board has established vehicle emission monitoring stations at Dindigul, Palani, Udthagamandalam (2 stations), and Chengalpattu. The Board has upgraded and computerised all its vehicle emission monitoring stations for testing diesel driven vehicles and computerisation is under process for petrol driven vehicles.

During the year 2003-2004, out of 51,398 vehicles tested, 13,206 vehicles exceeded the limit during their first test. After rectification of defects, 1,666 vehicles still did not satisfy the standards. The Board has initiated action to check the emission levels of the buses run by the Metropolitan Transport Corporation of Chennai Limited. Computerised emission testing centers have been provided by the Board in the Metropolitan Transport Corporation Depots at Adyar, Alandur, Ayanavaram, Anna Nagar, Vadapalani and Tondiarpet. Other Transport Corporations have also been instructed to closely monitor the emission levels of their buses. All the Government Corporations and Departments have been requested to ensure that their vehicles do not exceed the emission norms so as to set an example to others.

For controlling vehicular emission, cleaner fuel like unleaded petrol, petrol with 3% benzene and low sulphur fuel (0.05%) have been introduced in Chennai Metropolitan Area. Passenger cars complying with Bharat stage-II norms alone are registered in Chennai since July 2001. Action is being taken to introduce liquefied petroleum gas in Chennai as it is a cleaner fuel. 7 liquefied petroleum gas stations have been commissioned at Koyambedu, Guindy, Avadi, Mogappair, Kilpauk and Ambattur. Government policy to encourage mass transport and the use of liquefied petroleum gas for private vehicles will help in improving the air quality.

The Board is assisting in implementation of the action plan evolved for the improvement of air quality in Chennai city. Periodical reports on implementation of the action plan are being sent through the Environment and Forests Department to the Environment Protection and Control Authority constituted as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

4.15. Noise Level Monitoring

Towards controlling noise pollution in urban areas, about 44,500 air horns were removed from buses and lorries throughout the State. 29 districts have been declared as air horn free districts. The Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Chennai was the first to declare its corporations 'air horn free'. Other transport corporations have followed suit. For noise level monitoring at the district level, sophisticated noise level meters have been provided to the District Offices of the Board at the cost of Rs. 88 lakhs.

4.16. Water Quality Monitoring

Pollution of major rivers in the State is caused by the discharge of untreated sewage from the urban local bodies and panchayats and untreated or partially treated effluent from industries. The Board is collecting the samples periodically to monitor the quality of rivers and to instruct the polluters to take corrective measures. In case of industrial pollution, it is the responsibility of the industrial units to provide the required effluent treatment plants either individually or collectively so as to achieve the standards. Pollution abatement schemes are being implemented in the river stretches of Cauvery at Tiruchirapalli, Bhavani, Erode, Pallipalayam and Komarapalayam and in the river stretch of Vaigai at Madurai under the National River Conservation Programme. Other rivers and water sources are also proposed to be taken up under the National River Conservation Programme.

4.17. Water Quality Monitoring Programmes

Under the Global Environmental Monitoring System, the Board is closely monitoring the quality of water in the Cauvery basin at Mettur, Pallipalayam, Musiri and ground water quality at Musiri. Similarly, water quality of rivers Cauvery (16 stations), Tamiraparani (7 stations), Palar (1 station) and Vaigai (1 station) and the three important lakes in Udhamandalam, Kodaikkanal and Yercaud are being monitored under the Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources System by the Board. The Board is continuously monitoring the Chennai city water ways to prevent pollution due to discharge of trade effluent from industries and sewage from local bodies and is collecting and analysing samples of river water and outfalls at regular intervals, since 1991.

The Board is now creating awareness on non-point sources of pollution. One of the major non-point sources of pollution is from chemical based agriculture. Awareness measures taken by the Board have pointed out the need to shift to more eco-friendly organic agriculture by use of less chemical pesticides/fertilizers.

4.18. Wastes Management

4.18.1. Hazardous Substances Management

The Board has taken effective steps for handling and management of hazardous chemicals and treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes in an environmentally safe manner. The Board has identified 2,318 units

generating hazardous wastes and completed identification of hazardous waste streams in respect of existing units as per the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003.

Industries located in Chennai, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts have formed the Industrial Waste Management Association for establishing a common hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility through a private operator. The site at Melakottaiyur village, Chengalpattu Taluk, Kancheepuram district has been identified as a site for establishing this facility.

Based on the instructions of the Board, the federations of common effluent treatment plants at Tiruppur have identified a site at Nallur village, Karupagounderpalayam, Tiruppur taluk, Coimbatore district for establishing a common hazardous waste secure landfill facility. The federation of common effluent treatment plants in Karur have identified a site at Mathagiri village, Krishnarayapuram taluk, Karur district for establishing a secure landfill facility for disposal of sludge generated from treatment of textile dyeing effluents.

The Board is promoting a few landfill facilities at strategic locations to ensure that such facilities are properly monitored and the associated environmental problems are effectively managed.

The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2000 provide for implementation of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes including their reprocessing or reuse as raw material and disposal of residues after extracting the reusable materials. In Tamil Nadu, hazardous wastes such as waste oil and lead from used batteries are being recycled in an environment friendly manner by the facilities, which are authorised by the Board and registered with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The Board is also exercising control over the generators and auctioneers. Only authorised and registered facilitators are allowed to handle these wastes.

The Board has also identified 25 isolated storages used for storing of hazardous chemicals. Due to close monitoring, 73 industries have taken policies under the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991. During 1997-1998, the logistics for hazardous substances management cell have been made at a cost of Rs. 12.60 lakhs from the Board's own fund. During 2002-2003, an adhoc sanction for Rs.41.95 lakhs for the project on hazardous substances management has been received from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

4.18.2. Municipal Solid Waste Management

With increasing urbanisation and rising levels of municipal solid wastes, an urgent task is to evolve scientific approaches to segregate, handle and dispose the solid wastes in urban areas. In this regard, a project of conducting feasibility studies on solid waste management for the local bodies of Udthagamandalam, Kodaikkanal, Palani, Tiruchendur, Kanyakumari, Rameswaram, Mamalapuram and Kuttralam, which are all centres of tourism, has been taken up at a cost of Rs.23.60 lakhs from Board's fund. Tiruppur municipality has started segregation of waste at source. A private agency is composting the segregated waste for the past two years. Further 92 other municipalities have started segregation of waste at source and the composting work has begun. The Board has issued no objection certificates to 32 municipalities/corporations for composting of municipal solid wastes.

Workshops on municipal solid waste management were conducted during August 2001 for all the commissioners of municipal corporations and municipalities and in December 2001 for the executive officers of town panchayats and again during August 2002 for municipal commissioners. A seminar on decentralised sewage treatment and biometanisation as a technological option for municipal solid waste management was conducted during November 2002 for municipal commissioners. Various programmes towards achieving zero garbage have been conducted at district levels regularly. During 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, 26 awareness programmes on source segregation of municipal solid wastes were conducted with 6,160 participants in and around Chennai.

4.18.3. Plastic Wastes Management

Realizing the environmental problems caused by indiscriminate use and disposal of plastics, awareness has been created regarding reduction in the use of throwaway plastics through various campaigns. A mobile exhibition, exhibiting eco-friendly alternatives to plastics was arranged in Chennai city, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 03.08.2001. District level programmes on 'Children Against Plastic' were launched in September 2001. Financial assistance of Rs.1.25 lakh was provided to each District Collector for the conduct of campaigns to encourage the use of eco-friendly alternatives to throwaway plastics in their districts. Billboards educating people against the use and disposal of throwaway plastics were placed on Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses, in Chennai. Awareness campaigns were conducted in Nilgiris, Kodaikkanal, Yercaud, Rameshwaram, Kanyakumari and other tourist towns and cities. Continuous awareness programmes are being conducted for the devotees using the girivalam path of the Thiruvannamalai temple. The Nilgiris district, Hogenakkal, Kanyakumari, Kodaikkanal, Ooty, Rameshwaram, Valparai, Yelagiri, Yercaud, Thirumoorthis falls, etc., have been declared as throwaway plastic free areas. As an alternative to plastics, a training for the production of palm leaf products has been conducted to self help groups in Salem, Vellore and Cuddalore through the Central Palmgur and Palm Products Institute of Village Industries Commission.

Action is being taken at the Government level on cleaning up of National/State Highways and other District Roads to make them free of plastic wastes, encroachments and other polluting activities. This would help to make a drive through Tamil Nadu, an aesthetic experience.

4.18.4. Bio-medical Wastes Management

The Board enforces the Biomedical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 as amended in 2000. As part of this process, the Board has so far inventorised 317 Government hospitals and 1,835 private hospitals. The Board has issued directions to the Government and private hospitals to take time bound action for identifying sites and setting up common facilities for management of biomedical wastes in coordination with Indian Medical Association. So far 10 sites have been identified by the Indian Medical Association for establishing the common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facilities for the private health care units. The components of a common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facility are autoclave, shredder, compactor, incinerator for anatomical waste, secured landfill facility, laboratory and vehicles for transportation of wastes. In respect of biomedical wastes generated from Government hospitals, separate facilities are being envisaged in 6 municipal corporations. For smaller towns 'on site' autoclaving and deep burial is to be done. The Board has also conducted training in management of biomedical wastes for its own staff, members of Indian Medical

Association and other medical and para medical personnel. Two common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facilities at Thenmelpakkam village and Chennakuppam village in Kancheepuram district are under operation. Two more common biomedical waste treatment and disposal facilities at Kandipedu village, Vellore district and Sengipatti village, Thanjavur district respectively are nearing completion.

4.19. Other activities of the Board

4.19.1. Applied Research and Development

The Board has established an applied research and development wing in the Advanced Environmental Laboratory at Chennai for developing cleaner technologies that would reduce the generation of pollution. The Board has established a research fund from cess fund of the Board to assist various institutions for conducting research studies in the field of environmental protection, pollution control and development of cleaner technologies. A committee has been formed to scrutinise and select suitable projects for assistance. So far 9 such projects have been sanctioned with an outlay of Rs. 45.38 lakhs.

4.19.2. Environmental Training Institute

The Board has established an Environmental Training Institute with Danish assistance of Rs.4 crores at its head office to impart training to industries, local bodies, non governmental organizations and the staff of the Board to enable to monitor and advise industries on pollution abatement and prevention techniques. The Environmental Training Institute has conducted 185 training programmes and trained 7,946 participants from December 1995 upto 31.03.2004.

As per the provisions of Water and Air Acts, one of the functions of the State Pollution Control Board is to impart training on prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution. The Environmental Training Institute collects course fee from the participants for meeting the expenditure pertaining to course materials and refreshments. Income collected from the participants from April 1997 to March 2004 is Rs. 51.27 lakhs.

4.19.3. Environmental Awareness

An environmental pavilion set up at Periyar Science and Technology Centre, Chennai conducts painting, essay writing and oratorical contests on environmental issues. Video films and short films are screened. The Board has established a pollution awareness and assistance cell in the Corporate office. Environmental awareness programmes and workshops on vehicular pollution, noise pollution control, hazardous waste management, solid waste management, biomedical waste management, plastic waste management, protection of ozone layer, rain water harvesting, etc, are being conducted. Special awareness campaigns are conducted against air and noise pollution during festival seasons such as Deepavali and Bogi. These campaigns were quite successful. Awareness programme regarding permitted activities in residential area is being taken up so as to ensure that residential areas remain unpolluted. To create an awareness among the public on various environmental issues, an amount of Rs. 1 lakh each has been given to the District Collectors by the Board.

4.20. Schemes

4.20.1. Preparation of Environmental Atlas

The Board has prepared environmental management plan for Chennai city and submitted to the Central Pollution Control Board for finalisation. The Board with assistance of the Central Pollution Control Board is implementing the spatial environmental planning programme for preparing district environmental atlas in respect of Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Coimbatore, Vellore and Thoothukudi as per the revised criteria of the Central Pollution Control Board.

4.20.2. Externally Aided Projects

The Board has signed an agreement on 24.11.2000 with the United States Trade and Development Agency to conduct a feasibility study on industrial waste water recycling and reuse for the tanneries in the Vellore region. The entire project cost is 1,80,100 in United States Dollar. The study has been completed and the final report from the agency appointed by the United States Trade and Development Agency is awaited.

4.20.3. Green Awards

To encourage District Collectors to play a proactive role in promoting sustainable development in their districts, the Government has instituted green awards for protection of the environment. Green awards were given to the District Collectors based on the assessment of the personal contribution of the Collectors to the promotion of environmental protection and sustainable development. Green awards were given to the District Collectors of the Nilgiris, Salem and Virudhunagar for the year 2001-2002 and to the District Collectors of Kanyakumari, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Thiruvannamalai and Vellore for the year 2002-2003 for their work in environmental protection and pollution control. The Awards were distributed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 05.06.2002 and 05.06.2003 respectively. These awards had motivated Collectors to focus on the issues relating to environment in their districts.

“*Green Innovators Award*” was instituted by the Government during the year 2003. This award was given to an industrial unit, which has contributed innovatively in tackling a major industrial pollution problem in the textile processing industry.

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