

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 4128**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

**Laws for Environmental Protection**

4128. SHRI K GOPINATH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the key laws enacted for environmental protection in the country, detailed information about these acts;
- (b) the consequences for non-compliance with these environmental laws and the manner in which these actions are enforced; and
- (c) the information about the actions taken under these acts during the last three years and current year, including specific initiatives and measures implemented in States like Tamil Nadu?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

**(a)** The key laws enacted for environmental protection other than that dealing with Forest, Wildlife and Biodiversity in the country and detailed information about such Acts are as follows:

**The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;**

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been enacted for protection and improvement of environment and the prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants and property.

The Act consists of four chapters with 26 sections. It empowers the Central Government to take measures to protect and improve environment, power to give directions, laying down standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants, laying down procedure and safeguards for the prevention of accidents that may cause environmental pollution and remedial measures for such accidents. Further, it stipulates about measures to be taken for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution, establishing environmental laboratories, penalties for contravention of Act, appointment of adjudicating officer for determining the penalties. Thus it lays the foundation for various Rules and policies, for the handling of hazardous substances. Under Rule 6 and 25 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 the following Rules are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

1. The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
2. The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989
3. The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000

4. The Ozone Depleting Substance (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000
5. The Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022
6. Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006
7. The Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.
8. The Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016
9. The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016
10. The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016
11. The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016
12. The Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016
13. The Lead Stabilizer in Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Pipes and Fittings Rules, 2021 etc.

### **The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974:**

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 has been enacted to provide for the prevention and control of water pollution and the maintaining or restoring of wholesomeness of water, for the establishment, with a view to carrying out the purposes aforesaid, of Boards for the prevention and control of water pollution, for conferring on and assigning to such Boards powers and functions relating thereto and for matters connected therewith.

The Act consists of eight chapters with 64 sections. The Act empowers the Central and State Governments for constitution of Central and State Boards. Accordingly, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in the States / Pollution Control Committees (PCC) in the UTs, were established to regulate the discharge of pollutants into water bodies and mandate treatment of industrial and sewage waste to promote cleanliness of streams and wells. The Act details about the powers and functions of Boards. It stipulates measures for prevention and control of water pollution by rendering power to obtain information, samples, entry and inspection, prohibition on use of stream or well for disposal of polluting matter etc. restrictions on new outlets and new discharges. Section 25 of this Act empowers the State Boards to issue consent to establish and consent to operate. Further, Chapter seven prescribes penalties and procedures for contravention of Act along with appointment of adjudicating officer for determining the penalties.

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 63 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 the Central Government after consultation with the Central Board, notified 'The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1975'.

### **The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981:**

The Act provides 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.

The Act consists of seven chapters with 54 sections. The Act empowers the Central and State Government to establish Central and State Boards for the prevention and control of Air Pollution. It enhances the power of CPCBs, SPCBs constituted under the Water Act to exercise and perform the functions for the prevention and control of air pollution. Chapter four of the

said Act stipulates measures for prevention and control of air pollution like power to declare air pollution control areas, to give instruction for ensuring standards for emission from automobiles, restrictions on use of certain industrial plants, power of entry and inspections, drawing of samples etc., Further, chapter six of the Air Act prescribes penalties and procedure for contravention of act, power of Central Government and State Government to make Rules.

In exercise of powers conferred by Section 53 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Central Government after consultation with the Central Board, notified The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1982 & The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) (Union Territories) Rules, 1983.

### **The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021:**

An Act to provide for the constitution of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas for better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Act consists of 31 Sections and five Chapters. The Act empowers the Commission to take all such measures, issue directions and entertain complaints, as it deems necessary or expedient, for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the National Capital Region and Adjoining. The Act also prescribes about Penalty for contravention of provisions of Act, rules, orders or directions.

**(b)** The Central and State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees are monitoring compliance to environmental laws. They take appropriate action against defaulters responsible for increase in all types of pollution (non-compliance to the effluent, emission norms, waste management etc.) under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The non-compliances to the environmental regulations { Water Act, Air Act, E(P) Act and the Rules made thereunder}, can result in monetary penalty, imprisonment, closure of industrial units/ activities, Environmental Compensation, Cancellation of Consent to Operate / Environmental Clearances etc.

**(c) The information about the actions taken under these acts in the last three years, including specific initiatives and measures implemented in States like Tamil Nadu:-**

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board monitors the industries on compliance of environmental standards. If violation is noticed, show cause notices issued. Once the units rectify the defects, further action is dropped. If violation continues, the units are called for personal hearing and time will be granted for rectification of defects. In case, the units continue to violate and pollute the environment, the Board issues direction for closure and disconnection of power supply under the provisions of the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974, the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Once the unit rectifies the defects, the closure order is revoked and power supply is restored.

Show cause notice and Closure direction are issued based on the following criteria:

- i. Non-Compliance of Consent order issued under section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ii. Non-compliance of discharge/emission Standards prescribed by the Board
- iii. Inadequate Pollution Control Measures
- iv. Industries operating without valid Consent
- v. Illegal discharge of Untreated/Partially treated Sewage/trade effluents.

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board also levy Environmental Compensation to industries/Health care Units in the following cases:

- i. Discharges in violation of consent conditions, mainly prescribed standards /consent limits,
- ii. Not complying with the directions issued, such as direction for closure due to non-installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS), non-adherence to the action plans submitted, failure of preventing the pollutants being discharged in water bodies and failure to implement waste management rules etc.;
- iii. Intentional avoidance of data submission or data manipulation by tampering the Online Continuous Emission/Effluent Monitoring Systems;
- iv. Accidental discharges lasting for short durations resulting in damage to the environment;
- v. Intentional discharges to the environment-land, water and air resulting into acute injury or damage to the environment;
- vi. Injection of treated/partially treated/untreated effluents to ground water.

The number of industries for which Show Cause notice issued and closed due to pollution violations in the past 3 years in the State of Tamil Nadu are as below:-

Year	No. of units for which Show Cause issued	No. of units for which closure order and disconnection of power supply order issued
2023-24	3482	152
2022-23	5063	420
2021-22	3520	332

#### **Specific Initiatives of TNPCB**

- i. To address legacy waste, TNPCB has identified 291 dumpsites across the State in coordination with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and adopted Bio Mining as a sustainable solution for the treatment and reclamation of these sites and initiated Bio-mining in 290 out of 291 dumpsites in 241 locations.
- ii. The Integrated Environmental Monitoring Studio has been established for online monitoring of emissions from major industries including Cement, Oil Refinery,

Petrochemicals, Thermal Power Plants, Fertilizers, Iron & Steel units, and integrates modules for tracking hazardous waste, biomedical waste, e-waste, and consent management. Presently, 820 industrial units are connected to the centre for stack and ambient air quality monitoring.

- iii. The Manali-Ennore Restoration & Rejuvenation Council (MERRC) has been established in response to major environmental incidents including an oil spill and ammonia gas leak. MERRC coordinates with multiple line departments to implement a holistic ecological restoration programme for the Manali-Ennore region. TNPCB has established a dedicated District Environmental Engineer office and two flying squads to conduct inspections, mock drills, community awareness programmes, and prevent unauthorized waste movement and illegal discharges.
- iv. The TN Fishnet Initiative (TNFI) was launched to address plastic pollution from discarded or abandoned fishing gear, which constitutes a significant portion of marine litter. The initiative has been expanded to all thirteen coastal districts.
- v. The Online Waste Exchange Bureau was launched to facilitate circular economy by connecting industrial waste generators with authorized recyclers, co-processors, and other waste utilizers through a transparent, web-based platform.
- vi. The State-wide campaign "Meendum Manjappai" was launched in December 2021 as a people's movement against single-use plastics. Under the State-wide campaign, 8.6 lakh traditional yellow cloth bags have been distributed and more than 2.76 lakh awareness activities have been conducted.

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