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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT**

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**ABSTRACT**

It is not as though degradation of environment is only a recent phenomenon. In the past also human activities have resulted in the degradation of environment, though they were not aware of it. Mans impact on the environment has resulted in pollution of environment. The protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the well-being of people and economic development. Environmental protection is a practice of protecting the environment, on organizational levels, for the benefit of the natural environment and human- been. According to section 2 (a) of the environmental protection Act, 'Environment' includes water, air and land inter-relationship which exists among and between water, air and land and human beings other living creatures, plants, micro-organism and property. There are about two hundred laws dealing with environmental protection both before and after independence in India.

**Keywords:**

*Environment, degradation, protection Act.*

**INTRODUCTION**

An Act to provide for the protection and improvement of environment and for matters connected therewith. Whereas decision were taken at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm in June, 1972, in which India participated, to take appropriate steps for the protection and improvement of human environment. The environment (Protection) Bill having passed by both the Houses of Parliament received the assent of the President on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1986. It came into force on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1986 as The Environment (Protection) ACT, 1986 (29 of 1986).

**POWERS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

The Central Government shall have the power to take all such measure as it deems necessary for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution.

- Co-ordination of action by the State Government, officers and other authorities under this Act and rules or other laws which are related to this Act.
- Planning and execution of a nation-wide programme for the prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution.
- Laying down standards for the quality of environment in its various aspects.

- Laying down standards for emission of environmental pollutants from various sources whatsoever.
- Restriction of areas in which any industries, operation or processes or class of industries operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards.
- Laying down procedures and safeguards for the prevention of accidents which may cause environmental pollution and remedial measures for such accidents.
- Laying down procedures and safeguards for the handling of hazardous substances:
- Examination of such manufacturing processes, materials and substances as are likely to cause environmental pollution:
- Carrying out and sponsoring investigations and research relating to problems of environmental pollution:
- Inspection of any premises, plant, equipment, machinery, manufacturing or other processes materials or substances and giving by order of such directions to such authority's officers or persons as it may consider necessary to take steps for the prevention control and abatement of environmental pollution.

A public interest petition was failed seeking directions from the apex court to the Government for exhibition of slides in cinema halls containing information and messages on environment free of cost spread of relative valuable information relating to environment in national and regional languages through television and radio in regular and short-term programmes and for making environment as compulsory subject in schools and colleges. The Supreme Court accepted the prayers in principle and issued directions to that effect holding that keeping the citizens informed is an obligation of the Government.

Providing for the protection and improvement of the environment.

Preventing environmental pollution in all its forms.

To tackle specific environmental problems that are peculiar to different parts of country

- To improve the quality of life by protection of environment.
- To protect the forest life and wild life in the country.