

Chapter VIII

Conclusion

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The rapid growth in the population and resultant urbanization has brought about a situation of trade-off between environment protection and development. The fact is undeniable that development has to take place to accommodate the growing population and their ever increasing needs. Yet, the same should not be at the cost of widespread environmental destruction.

The PA on environmental degradation in greater Guwahati area with special emphasis on the role of PCBA revealed that while there were multiple agencies responsible for compliance with various Environmental Laws and Waste Management rules, the State Government had entrusted with the PCBA the overarching control and monitoring of environmental issues. Overall the position of finances in the PCBA, which consistently showed excess of receipt over expenditure, suggest that the deficiencies brought out in the report could have been tackled with much more efficiency which would have helped the State of Assam curb the impact of environmental degradation much more effectively.

The monitoring work of the PCBA also suffered due to lesser number of technical staff as compared to the non- technical staff strength. There was substantial shortfall in conducting inspections of even the highest polluting “Red” category industries.

The Municipal Corporation was found to be discharging domestic effluents into water bodies without treatment. Several Industries, municipalities, healthcare establishments were found to be operating without valid authorisation. 56 out of 183 Health Care Establishments in Guwahati neither had waste treatment facilities nor tied up with other partners for Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities.

Handling and management of Municipal Solid Wastes, e-wastes, Hazardous Wastes, Bio-Medical Wastes and Plastic Wastes was inadequate due to lack of active participation by all stake holders. The Board failed to take action against the defaulting individuals/ organisations to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules framed thereunder.

Guwahati

Dated :



(C H Kharshiing)

Pr. Accountant General (Audit), Assam

Countersigned



(SHASHI KANT SHARMA)

Comptroller and Auditor General of India

New Delhi

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