



Vidyavardhaka Sangha (R.) Mysuru
VIDYAVARDHAKA LAW COLLEGE
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REPORT OF SPECIAL LECTURE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

On 17-12-2024 Eco-Club organized special lecture on Environmental Issues. In this Programme, Coordinator of Eco Club Dr. Bore Gowda S.B. Assistant Professor, Vidyavardhaka Law College welcomed the Resource Person. Resource Person of this Programme Dr. Nataraj S. Deliver a Lecture on Environmental Issues and he said Environmental Protection is the practice of protecting the natural environment from negative impacts, such as those caused by pollution, economic activity, and the use of natural resources. The goal of environmental protection is to conserve natural resources, repair damage, and reverse trends. Environmental protection, or environment protection, is the practice of protecting the natural environment by individuals, groups and governments. Its objectives are to conserve natural resources and the existing natural environment and, where it is possible, to repair damage and reverse trends.



Environmental Protection includes programs and services that are aimed at reducing risks to the environment from contaminants such as hazardous materials and wastes, fuels, and oils. These programs address pollution prevention measures and regulatory compliance by providing procedures for safely working with these materials, inspecting the storage vessels and locations, and designating preventative maintenance procedures. Also included are

environmental emergency plans, which provide the appropriate actions to be taken in the event of a spill or release. He said our government enacted plenty of environmental policy to protect the components of environment. The Environment [Protection] Act, 1986 was enacted to provide for the protection and improvement of the quality of environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution. The Act came into existence as a direct result of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. The term „environment“ refers to water, air and land, in addition to the interrelationships that exist between water, air, land, humans, other living beings, plants, microorganisms and property. The given definition of environment is so broad that its scope includes all living beings including plants and microorganisms and their relationship with water, air and land.



This Act has given huge powers to the Central Government to take actions with respect of planning and execution of a nation-wide programme for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in India. It empowers the Government to lay down principles for the regulate industrial locations, prescribe procedure for managing hazardous substances, quality of environment, establish safeguards for preventing accidents, emission or discharge of environmental pollutants and to collect and disseminate information regarding environmental pollution etc. Any infringement of the provisions of this Act, rules, orders or directions made there under is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or with fine up to one lakh rupees or with both. This Act is an umbrella legislation designed to present a frame work for Central Government bringing together of the activities of various

Central and State authorities established under previous laws like the Water Act and the Air Act. He said we have noticed that in the past few years there is an increasing trend to the number of cases relating to the environmental pollution, ecological destruction and conflicts over natural resources coming up before the Courts. In most of these cases there is need for Environment Court and natural scientific expertise as an essential input to inform judicial decision-making. These cases need expertise at a high level of scientific and technical superiority. The experience shows that the prosecution launched in ordinary Criminal Courts under the provisions of the Water Act, the Air Act and the Environment [Protection] Act never reach their conclusion either because of the work load in these Courts or because there is no proper appreciation of the significance of the environment matters on the part of those in charge of conducting of those cases. Moreover, any orders approved by the authorities under the Water Act, the Air Act and the Environment [Protection] Act are instantly questioned by the industries in the Courts. Those procedures take years and years to reach conclusion. Many a times interim orders are passed in the meantime which effectively disables the officers from ensuring the implementation of their orders.



He said we have more than 200 Central and State legislations and laws which deal with environmental issues and problems. It is true that more laws mean more difficulties in enforcement. So, there is a need to have a complete and integrated law on environmental protection for meaningful enforcement in India. But it is not enough to pass the legislations.

A positive approach on the part of everyone in society is essential for effective, speedy and efficient enforcement of these legislations.

At last vote of thanks rendered by Dr. BoreGowda S.B., Coordinator, Eco-Club.

