



## INTRODUCTION AND THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW

### Role and Organisation

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is primarily concerned with the implementation of policies and programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources including lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, forests and wildlife, ensuring the welfare of animals and prevention and abatement of pollution. While implementing these policies and programmes, the Ministry is guided by the principle of sustainable development and enhancement of human well-being. The Ministry also serves as the nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and for the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Ministry is also entrusted with the issues relating to multilateral bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and of regional bodies like Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) and South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) on matters pertaining to environment.

The broad objectives of the Ministry are:

- Conservation and survey of flora, fauna, forests and wildlife,
- Prevention and control of pollution,
- Afforestation and regeneration of degraded areas,
- Protection of the environment, and
- Ensuring the welfare of animals.

These objectives are sought to be fulfilled by the Ministry primarily through:

- environmental impact assessment,
- eco-regeneration,
- assistance to organisations implementing environmental and forestry programmes,
- assistance to organisations including animal welfare programmes,
- promotion of environmental and forestry research, extension, education and training,

- dissemination of environmental information,
- international cooperation, and
- creation of environmental awareness among all sectors of the country's population.

These objectives are well supported by a set of legislative and regulatory measures, aimed at the preservation, conservation and protection of the environment. Some of them are the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995, the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997, The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980. The main legislations relating to protection of animals is the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Besides the legislative measures, a National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development, 1992, National Forest Policy, 1988 and a Policy Statement on Abatement of Pollution, 1992 have also been evolved.

The organizational structure of the Ministry indicating various divisions, subordinate offices and autonomous institutions is given in Annexure-1.

### **Allocation of Business**

- Environment and Ecology, including environment in coastal waters, in mangroves and coral reefs but excluding marine environment on the high seas.
- Environment research and development, education, training, information and awareness.
- Environmental Health
- Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Forest Development Agency and Joint Forest Management Programme for conservation, management and afforestation.
- Survey and Exploration of Natural Resources particularly of Forest, Flora, Fauna, Ecosystems etc.
- Bio-diversity Conservation including that of lakes and wetlands

- Conservation, development, management and abatement of pollution of rivers which shall include National River Conservation Directorate.
- Wildlife conservation, preservation, protection planning, research, education, training and awareness including Project Tiger and Project Elephant.
- International co-operation on issues concerning Environment, Forestry and Wildlife.
- Botanical Survey of India and Botanical Gardens.
- Zoological Survey of India.
- National Museum of Natural History.
- Biosphere Reserve Programme.
- National Forest Policy and Forestry Development in the country, including Social Forestry.
- All matters relating to Forest and Forest Administration in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Indian Forest Service.
- Wild Life Preservation and protection of wild birds and animals.
- Fundamental and applied research and training including higher education in forestry.
- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological park.
- National Assistance to Forestry Development Schemes.
- Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore.
- Afforestation and Eco-development which shall include National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board.
- Desert and Desertification.
- Forest Survey of India.
- Indian Institute of Bio-diversity, Itanagar.
- Central Pollution Control Board.

- G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development.
- Wildlife Institute of India and Indian Board for Wildlife.
- Indian Institute of Forest Management.
- Central Zoo Authority including National Zoo Park.
- Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited.
- Prevention of cruelty to animals.
- Matters relating to pounds and cattle trespass.
- Gaushalas and Gausadans.
- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960).
- The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 (27 of 1995).
- The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997 (22 of 1997).
- The Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974 (6 of 1974).
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 (36 of 1977).
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (14 of 1981).
- The Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927).
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972).
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980).
- The Environment (Protection), Act, 1986 (29 of 1986).
- The Public Liability insurance Act, 1991 ( 6 of 1991).

An overview of the activities undertaken during the year by the Ministry and its Subordinate Offices, Autonomous Institutions and undertakings is as follows:

## Survey of Natural Resources

### Flora

- Germplasm of 25 species of rare, endangered, wild relatives of ornamentals and medicinally important plants have been conserved, multiplied and maintained in different gardens of Botanical Survey of India. Seventeen rare and threatened plants, 264 medicinal and economically important plants and 362 ornamental plants have been collected, introduced and maintained.
- 48 exploration/collection tours were undertaken by various units of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) in different districts, regions including protected areas, fragile ecosystems and wetlands. More than 12,500 specimens were collected including lower groups of plants, namely; algae, fungi, lichens, bryophytes and pteridophytes. 3500 specimens belonging to 1225 species were identified.
- 3229 herbarium data sheets were prepared for the family Orchidaceae, seventy for Ranunculaceae and Magnoliaceae and entered into the computer using Botanical Research and Herbarium Management System (BRAHMS).
- Nine species and one variety have been described as new to science. 14 species have been recorded for the first time from India, one species from Sikkim, four species from Madhya Pradesh and eight from Himachal Pradesh. One species from Jammu & Kashmir, four species from Uttaranchal and one species from West Bengal are recorded as new to the state. Two species have been collected after a lapse of 50 years.
- Flora of Vishakapatnam, Indravati Tiger Reserve, Directory of Plants in the Botanical Garden of India, Flora of Jammu and Kashmir and the bulletins of the Botanical Survey of India were published.

### Fauna

- Sixty five extensive faunal surveys were undertaken by Zoological Survey of India in different States/ Union Territories including important ecosystems and some selected conservation/protected areas.
- Detailed taxonomic studies carried out during the

year resulted in the discovery of a total of 5 new species.

- The National Zoological Collection was further enriched by 14401 specimens belonging to 485 species including 5 new species.
- The Fauna of India Volumes for Dermaptera Part II and 1 Hymenoptera; Scoliidea were published.

## Forests

- The “State of Forest Report” eighth in the series was published and the resolution of data used is 23.5m X 23.5m and the scale of interpretation is 1:50,000.
- As per the assessment of forest cover 2001, 20.55% is the total forest cover of the country.
- A methodology has been developed for a comprehensive assessment of forest resources inside and outside forest areas at national level by stratifying the country into 14 physiographic zones according to tree species, composition and other physiographic and ecological parameters.
- A field inventory is being conducted by FSI of forest resources inside and outside forests including vegetation survey and estimation of soil carbon in forests.

## Conservation of Natural Resources including Forestry and Wildlife

### Biosphere Reserves

- Thirteen Biosphere Reserves have been set up in the country to protect representative eco-systems and serve as laboratories for evolving alternative models of development.
- Three Biosphere Reserves from India are now included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves namely; Sundarbans (West Bengal), Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu) and Nilgiri (Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu).

### Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs

- Management Action Plans have been prepared for twenty two wetlands out of twenty six.

- Two new wetlands have been added to the national list namely; Pt. Calimer from Tamil Nadu and East Kolkata from West Bengal.
- Nineteen sites have already been declared as Ramsar sites of international importance in India. Six sites are in the process of being designated as Ramsar sites.
- A Directory of Wetlands covering 2,107 natural and 65,253 man made wetlands, occupying an area of 4.1 million hectares and information on the status of 183 Wetlands of national/international importance was prepared.
- Twenty four wetlands, 35 mangrove and four coral reef areas in the country have been identified by the Ministry for conservation and management.
- During the year the Research Sub-Committee on Mangroves and Coral Reefs met on 23.2.2004 and considered 17 forests proposals and recommended six.
- Financial assistance was extended for implementation of the Management Action Plan for 11 identified mangrove areas.
- Under the Management Action Plan for conservation and management of coral reefs financial assistance for Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kuchchh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands were released during the year.

### Bio-Diversity Conservation

- India is one of the 16 mega diverse countries which possess 60-70% of the world’s biodiversity. India took over the chairmanship of the group of Megadiverse countries in Feb, 2004.
- A draft National Plan for ecological security and livelihood of people most dependent on natural resources was drafted and circulated for comments.
- A National Biodiversity Authority has been set up at Chennai under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- The Cartagena protocol on Biosafety was ratified in Jan 2003 and came into force from Sep 2003.

India attended the first meeting of the parties held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in Feb, 2004.

- The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has recently approved commercial release of RCH-2 Bt cotton hybrid developed by M/s Rasi seeds Pvt. Ltd for the Central and South Zone. The GEAC has also recommended large scale trials of a number of Bt cotton hybrids delivered by other companies.

### All India Coordinated Project on Taxonomy (AICOPTAX)

- The AICOPTAX Project is to continue during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Project has 15 operational coordinating and 63 collaborating units on Bacteria and Archeae, Animal Viruses, Fungi, Lichens and Bryophytes, Bamboos and Grasses, Palms, Heminthes and Nematodes, Mollusca, Microlepidoptera, Biosystematic training (Plants), training in Biosystematic – animals, Pteridophytes and Gymnosperms, Diptera, Orchids and Algae.

### Assistance to Botanic Gardens

- The Ministry has constituted an Expert Group to examine and recommend proposals received under the scheme on Assistance to Botanic Gardens to augment *ex-situ* conservation of rare endemic plants. One time financial assistance is provided under the scheme.
- During the year, 22 institutions were provided financial assistance for improvement of infrastructural facilities in their botanical gardens.

### Forest Conservation

- 342 proposals (forest-land involved more than 49,484 ha.) were granted clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for other purposes.
- Procedure for forestry clearance and application forms have been simplified by Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003. To cut delays in forestry clearances, specific time limits have been fixed at State Government level and Central Government level for processing the proposals. Regional Offices have

been delegated more power to process the proposals involving forest area up to 40 ha.

- To promote investment in power sector “Wind Energy Policy” under Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 has been put in place.
- In conformity with the National Forest Policy, 1988 and to provide boost to the development of tribal areas, new guidelines for “Development projects in tribal areas” have also been formulated and one time clearance has been granted for public utility development projects like Drinking Water, Electricity etc.
- 385 number of forest villages have been converted into revenue villages in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- The period of general approval under section – 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for public utility development projects has been extended upto 15/10/2005.
- A monitoring cell has been created for data base management, updating the web-site for forestry clearances, monitoring the movement of proposals in the State and at the Central Government level and also to monitor the compliance of the stipulated conditions of the approved cases.
- Integrated Forest Protection Scheme has been formulated by the merger of the schemes ‘Forest Fire Control and Management’ and ‘Bridging of Infrastructure Gaps in the Forestry Sector in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim’. The components of the 100% centrally sponsored scheme are infrastructure development which includes – working plan preparation / survey and demarcation and strengthening of Infrastructure for forest protection and forest fire control and management.
- The Joint Forest Management Programme was pursued vigorously with the result that JFM resolution has now been adopted in all the 28 States. 84,632 JFM Committees have been formed and 17.33 million ha forest area have been brought under JFM Programme. About 85.28 lakhs families are involved in JFM Programme in various states all over the country.

## Wildlife Conservation

- During the year, ban on export of 29 species of plant, plant-portions and their derivatives obtained from the wild, was continued. Export of six species of exotic birds was also continued subject to pre-shipment inspection and provision under CITES wherever required.
- The various amendments made to the Wild Life (Protection) Act 2003 came into force from April 1, 2003 except for the provision relating to constitution of the National Board for Wildlife.
- The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) was constituted vide notification dated September 21, 2003. The first meeting of NBWL was held on October 15, 2003 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister. A standing committee of the NBWC has also been constituted which met on December 24, 2003 and March 18, 2004.
- There are 92 National Parks and 500 wildlife sanctuaries in the country covering an area of 15.67 million hectares. Financial assistance for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries was provided to 269 National Parks and Sanctuaries in 28 States (including North-Eastern States) and Union Territories in the country during the year.
- Twenty eight Tiger Reserves have so far been set up in 17 States covering an area of about 37,761 Sq.Km. in the country. Project Tiger has been rated as a role model and one of the 56 events that changed India since independence. Eight potential areas in the country have also been identified for inclusion under Project Tiger.
- Under the India Eco-development Project 572 eco-development committees have been formed in seven protected areas covering 75,600 families.
- For the first time information and communications technology is being used for linking important tiger reserves in the GIS domain for evolving a management support system including crime detection, dissemination of information through web and evolving a “National Tiger Monitoring and habitat Evaluation System” with regional protocols.
- Seven elephant reserves have been set up during the year (till November 2003) which include Dihing – Patkai, Dhansiri – Lungding and Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong in Assam and Nilgiri, Coimbatore, Anamalai and Srivilliputhru in Tamilnadu. Total number of Elephant Reserves in the country stood at 23 as on 1.12.2003.
- A programme has been initiated during 2003-04 for the regular and systematic monitoring of wild elephants under the MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) programme of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Ten sensitive sites have been identified for this purpose in different parts of the country. MIKE also provides a forum for collaboration with other South Asian countries (viz. Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka ) for protection of elephants.
- A technical handbook on post-mortem techniques for elephants has been brought out during 2003-04.
- An amount of Rs. 8.05 crores (Rs.2.23 crores for North-Eastern States) was released (till November 2003) to the elephant range states for the purpose of habitat management, mitigation of man-elephant conflict, payment of ex-gratia relief for loss of life human and crop caused by wild elephants, strengthening of anti-poaching measures, capacity building of the field staff, registration of domesticated elephants using microchips etc.
- An International Workshop on Health Care Management of Wild Animals in Zoos was organized in association with the Wildlife Institute of India from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2003 at New Delhi. International Experts from USA, Singapore, IUCN Veterinary Specialist Group participated in the Workshop. Vice-Chancellors of Tamil Nadu Veterinary University and Orissa Agriculture University also participated in the Workshop. A total of 40 participants attended the Workshop.
- Out of the 165 recognized Zoos in the country, 44 major Zoos were due for renewal of recognition. Evaluation teams constituted for evaluation of these Zoos evaluated 36 Zoos during the year.
- An interactive website of the Central Zoo Authority ([www.cza.nic.in](http://www.cza.nic.in)) has been hosted. The complete

inventory of animals of all the large, medium and small zoos are in the website. Zoos can now access their respective inventory and enter death, birth and other details directly. A total of 1.31 lakh hits have been registered so far.

## Animal Welfare

- The Animal Welfare Division became a part of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the month of July 2002. Earlier the division was under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The mandate of Animal Welfare Division is to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and this is accomplished by regulations, assistance and through development programmes.
- A total of 307 societies for prevention of cruelty to animals (SPCAs) were constituted.
- Assistance for construction of shelter houses, dispensaries etc. were provided for stray, infirm and abandoned animals. Grants for ambulances and vehicles in connection with treatment and transportation of sick, injured and rescued animals were also disbursed.
- Under the scheme for Animal Birth Control and Immunization for stray dogs during the year, an amount of Rs. 1.697 crores was released to 65 organizations in various states. 63,000 dogs have been covered under this project during the year.
- Under the scheme for Shelter Houses for working animals an amount of Rs. 2.96 crores has been released to 38 organisations in various states.
- Under the scheme for provision of Ambulance Services to animals in distress an amount of Rs. 47.50 lakhs was released to 12 organisations in the country.
- The National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW) is being set up at Bhallabgarh district of Faridabad, Haryana. The institute is being constructed and would offer intensive specialized diplomas from October 1, 2004.

## Environmental Impact Assessment

- A total number of 387 projects were appraised for

environmental and site clearance during the year. 318 projects were cleared and 72 were either rejected or closed. 248 projects were pending at the end of the year.

- A total of 249 industrial project proposals and 198 mining proposals were received for seeking expost facto - environmental clearance by the deadline. Preliminary appraisal has been undertaken of the proposals.
- During the year, the Ministry continued its programme of monitoring implementation of environmental mitigation measures stipulated while according environmental clearance to various development projects. 395 projects have been monitored till December 2003 through the existing network of six Regional Offices of the Ministry.
- Mining proposal involving major minerals with lease area more than five ha. in areas covered by the Aravalli Notification has been brought under the purview of EIA Notification, vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 248(E) dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2003.
- Widening and strengthening of existing canals with land acquisition upto a maximum of 20 metres (on both sides put together) along the existing alignments has been exempted, provided such canals do not pass through ecologically sensitive areas from the purview of EIA Notification, Gazetted vide Notification No. S.O. 506 (E) dated May 7, 2003.
- The distance criteria, which was 25 kms in case of reserved forests and ecologically sensitive areas, shall be 50 kms in both the cases, as per Gazette Notification No. S.O. 891 (E) dated August 4, 2003. As a result, power projects of co-generation plants, captive power plants upto 500 MW using fluidized bed technology, coal based power plants upto 250 MW using conventional technology, gas / naphtha based plants upto 500 MW and not falling within a critically polluted area or within a radius of 15 kms of boundary of reserved forests, ecologically sensitive areas in any state can be considered and accorded environmental clearance by the State Governments themselves.
- Environmental site clearance has been made

mandatory for mega projects such as green field airports, petrochemical complexes and refineries; in item 4 of schedule 1; petroleum refineries including crude and product pipelines, and isolated petroleum product storages. Public Hearing has been exempted for offshore exploration activities, beyond 10 km from the nearest habitated village boundary, goothans and ecologically sensitive areas such as mangroves (with a minimum area of 1000 sq. m.), coral reefs, national parks, marine parks, sanctuaries, reserve forests and breeding and spawning grounds of fish and other marine life; vide Gazette notification no. S.O. 1087 (E) dated September 22, 2003.

- Draft notification inviting suggestions / objections from all concerned including the members of public on the proposed amendment to the EIA Notification 1994 has been issued on 27.10.2003 vide S.O. No. 1236 (E). The notification aims to include new projects relating to construction of townships, industrial townships, settlement colonies, commercial complexes, hotel complexes, hospitals, office complexes for 1,000 persons and above or discharging sewage of 50,000 liters/day and above or with an investment of Rs. 50 crores and above and new industrial estates having an area of 50 hectares and above and the industrial estates irrespective of area if their pollution potential is high.

## Prevention and Control of Pollution

- So far 118 waste minimization circles in 41 industrial sectors have been established throughout the country and have trained 168 consultants in waste minimization activities. Implementation of this project has helped in identification of more than 200 options for resource and energy conservation in various small scale industries.
- Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) studies have been initiated in various sectors namely; steel, pulp and paper, and coal / lignite based thermal power. LCA studies in cement sector were initiated this year. The study relating to steel sector was completed last year. However the final report was submitted during the year. The study in the pulp and paper sector is progressing as per schedule.

- After a series of industry specific interaction meetings, the charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection (CREP) was released in March – 2003. This charter is a commitment for partnership and participatory action of concerned stake-holders and is a road map for progressive improvement in environmental management system for seventeen categories of polluting industries.
- The standards for generator sets of different sizes have been notified from time to time since 1992 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The limits of noise for diesel generator sets (DG Sets) upto 1000 KVA to be manufactured on or after July 1, 2003 were notified vide GSR 371(E) dated May 17, 2002. These standards have been revised vide GSR 520(E) dated July 1, 2003.
- In consultation with this Ministry, on February 10, 2004, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified emission norms vide GSR 111(E), under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989 amending Rule 115 of CMVR prescribing future Road Map for Pollution Under Control (PUC) certification procedure. The Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Hydro Carbon (HC) emission norms for new generation vehicles manufactured on or after the April 1, 2000 have also been prescribed in this amendment and shall come into force from October 1, 2004.
- As on 31.03. 2004, out of 2155 highly polluting industries, 1,877 industries have provided the necessary pollution control facilities, 225 industries have been closed down and remaining 53 industries are defaulting in the 17 categories of identified highly polluting industries. Legal actions under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been taken for all the defaulting units.
- During the year, financial support was provided to fifteen states and UTs for strengthening laboratory facilities.
- During the current financial year, financial assistance as per the financial pattern evolved was provided to ongoing CETP plants approved earlier and assistance was also provided to six new plants as approved by the Appraisal Committee.

- So far district wise zoning atlases have been finalised for 85 districts, studies have been completed for 39 and 16 are in final stages of completion.
- The tenure of the Loss of Ecology (Prevention and Payments of Compensation) Authority for the State of Tamilnadu has been extended upto September 30, 2004.
- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has established a National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (NAMP) network comprising of 295 stations in 98 cities / towns under the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to collect, compile and disseminate information on air quality.
- The CPCB continued the monitoring of water quality through its water quality network comprising of 784 stations. The monitoring results obtained during 2002 indicate that organic pollution continues to be the pre-dominant form of pollution. Trend analysis of BOD and coliform suggests that there is a gradual improvement in water quality.
- A project has been undertaken by Central Pollution Control Board for assessment of efficiency of autoclaves used in hospital waste treatment based on standardized spore testing methodology.

## Hazardous Substances Management

- Implementation of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rule 1989 and the Chemicals Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 were constantly pursued and monitored. There are 1434 Major Accident Hazard Units in 208 Districts of 19 States in the country and 977 on-site plans and 109 off-site plans have been prepared. All the States except Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Daman, Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Lakshdweep, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Uttranchal have constituted State Level Crisis Groups.
- During the year, funds were released for establishment of two Emergency Response Centres (ERC) at Mahad (Maharashtra) and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). The ERCs, which serve as a

link between the District Crisis Group and the industry, would primarily deal with chemical emergencies in the areas.

- During the year, Phase-II of the study entitled “Development and Demonstration of Process Technology for Remediation of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Oils and Paints by Radiolysis” was initiated. The objective of the project is to develop and optimise a radiolytic process for decomposition of PCBs in oils, capacitor oils and paint scrapings
- Subsequent to the directives of the Supreme Court, a Monitoring Committee on Hazardous Waste Management has been constituted by the Ministry in November 2003, by addition of two more members and by expanding the Terms of Reference of the existing Standing Committee on Hazardous Wastes under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Thyagrajan. This Monitoring Committee will oversee the compliance of various directions of the Court and file quarterly monitoring reports to the Court. Two meetings of the Committee have been held so far. Based on the discussions of the Committee and inputs provided by the CPCB and other SPCBs/PCCs, the first quarterly monitoring report has been filed in the Court in January, 2004.
- Consequent to the Notification of the amended HW Rules in May 2003, the Registration Scheme being implemented by the Ministry for actual users of identified hazardous wastes was transferred to CPCB.
- Amendments were issued to the Fly ash Notification, 1999 on August 27, 2003 vide S.O. 997(E).
- The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003 were notified.
- Amendments to the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 were issued on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2003 vide S.O. 698(E)
- The Ministry participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the open ended working group (OEWG) of the Basel convention.

## Regeneration and Development

### National River Conservation Directorate

- As a result of completion of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) phase I the water quality of river Ganga shows a general improvement in DO and BOD.
- The Yamuna Action Plan at present covers pollution abatement works in 21 towns at an approved cost of Rs. 509.45 crores of which Rs. 474.57 crores has been incurred so far. Out of the 179 schemes of pollution abatement sanctioned under the plan, 161 schemes have been completed. Additional pollution Abatement works in 15 towns of short gestation period amounting to Rs. 222.60 crores were undertaken & completed and the remaining are at different stages of completion.
- Financial sanction for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Gomti Action Plan at Lucknow has also been accorded in June, 2003 for Rs.263.04 crore. The project cost is to be shared in the ratio of 70:30 between GOI and State Government. The works in this phase will include two sewage treatment plants of a total capacity of 375 MLD (over and above the 42 MLD capacity being set up in the first phase), interception & diversion works of sewage of the remaining drains and other miscellaneous items such as river front development, toilets, plantation, public awareness and participation, and acquisition. At present tendering of some of the components of the project is on.
- Under Damodar Action Plan, pollution abatement works at a cost of Rs. 23.58 crore are being taken up in 12 towns. Of these 8 are in Jharkhand and 4 in West Bengal. So far 11 schemes have been sanctioned.
- Pollution abatement works in sixty two towns along twenty seven major rivers in twelve states of the country has been taken up. Of the 308 schemes sanctioned 105 schemes have been completed.
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is providing technical assistance for taking up a study on 'Water Quality Management Plan for river Ganga'. The objective of the study is to (i) formulate the Master Plan for water quality

management for the Ganga basin concerning liquid waste and (ii) formulate feasibility studies for high priority projects (basically sewerage and sewage treatment) identified in the Master Plan focusing on four towns namely; Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Lucknow. The study has been started in March 2003 and will be completed in a period of 2 years.

- Four lakes in Bangalore and nine lakes in Thane district were taken up in 2002-2003 and five lakes in Nainital district were approved in 2003-04 under the National Lake Conservation Plan.

### National Afforestation and Eco-development Board

- Under the afforestation programme with people's involvement for the sustainable management of the country's forests, five hundred and fifteen projects in 23 States have been operationalised for treating an area of 7.61 lakh ha.
- The Ministry of Environment and Forest is the National Coordinating Body for implementation of UNCCD in India. Under UNCCD, a Regional Action Programme for Asian countries has been formulated to strengthen the existing capacity of the parties and to network each other for effective measures to combat desertification. Six Thematic Programme Network (TPN) have been identified for this purpose.
- India is the host country for TPN-2 "Agro-forestry and Soil Conservation in Arid, Semi-arid and Dry Sub-humid Areas". The Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur has been identified as National Task Manager.
- During the year, the Asian Regional Agro-Forestry workshop was held on 17-20 Dec 2003 at Bangalore. It was decided to prepare a draft manual on best practices in Agro-forestry in Asian region.
- A National Consultation Workshop on Cost of Land Degradation/Desertification in India was held on 23-24 March, 2004 at New Delhi in collaboration with Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi.

- World Day to Combat Desertification was Celebrated on June 17, 2003 throughout the country.
- The NAEB has seven Regional Centres (RCs) located in Universities/National level Institutions. During the year, the RCs conducted a number of training programmes on Joint Forest Management (JFM), interactive workshop on forestry programmes, micro-planning exercise.
- During the year, the RCs conducted a number of training programmes on Joint Forest management (JFM), interactive workshop on forestry programmes, micro-planning exercise, etc wherein representatives of State Forest Departments and NGOs participated. The Centres also conducted problem specific studies as per the request of State Forest Department.

## Research

### Environmental Research

- During the year, under the Research and Development Schemes, 43 new research projects have been sanctioned and 15 on-going projects were completed under the scheme.
- During the year, the Ministry brought out a publication entitled “Environment Research in India”. This is third volume of the compendium of the executive summaries of 114 completed projects funded under the Research programme of the Ministry.
- A study was undertaken on ecological and faunistic survey of Homopteran Pests (Leaf and Plant Hoppers) at Sagar Island and the adjacent Namkhana Delta Lobe of Sunderbans, West Bengal. A total of 21 Homopteran species are reported. One is an entirely new species. Information generated in this study will be helpful to the agriculturists to devise remedial measures for their control.
- Data on bio-resources and use practices were collected from the rural areas of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). In the mountain communities there exist rich indigenous knowledge (IR) on various aspects of livelihood practices. Temur (*Xanthoxylum*

*armatum*) is one of such plant that is used for preparation of soup, chatni, leech repellent, curing toothache, cough and cold and as a vermicide among the Bhotiya tribes in Central Himalayan Region.

- A study was undertaken for fabrication of low cost hospital waste incinerator. The results showed that the double chamber round incinerator placed side by side was better than that of the rectangular incinerator but its fabrication has proved to be difficult notwithstanding its good performance. It was concluded that small incinerators were economically not viable.

### Forestry Research

- All the eight research institutes of the ICFRE, located at Dehradun, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Jabalpur, Jorhat, Jodhpur, Shimla, Ranchi and the three research centres at Hyderabad, Chindwara and Allahabad continued the various research activities in the forestry related areas and evolved several new techniques for a number of species for their conservation, propagation and promotion.
- Some of the salient research achievements during the year are development of a method for characterizing of and documenting high quality planting material, seed handling techniques for eight commercially important medicinal trees, bio-control method of management of some major diseases of artocarpus, tamarind etc.
- The Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute, Bangalore, continued research under three categories, wood and wood composite, composites from non-wood renewable fibres and enhancing of service life of products.

### Wildlife Research

- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun conducted research on the ecological, biological, socio-economic and managerial aspects of wildlife conservation in various parts of the country.
- Six collaborative research projects are underway with Department of Science & Technology, DBT, WB and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Four projects have been completed during the year.

## National Natural Resource Management System (NNRMS)

- The Standing Committee on Bio-resources and Environment (SC-B) constituted by the Planning Commission recommended 49 priority areas for taking up remote sensing based studies addressing key environmental and ecological issues such as management of forests, grassland, faunal resources, wetland, coastal areas, land degradation, river pollution, etc. Out of the 49 areas, 20 priority areas have been covered so far. 73 projects have so far been sponsored of which 47 have been completed under the NNRMS Scheme and the remaining are in various stages of completion.

## Education, Training and Information

### Forestry Education, Training and Extension

- To strengthen the infrastructure for forestry faculties in the universities imparting forestry training at graduate/post graduate levels, assistance was provided to various universities by the ICFRE, Dehradun during the year. Forestry statistics and a quarterly ICFRE newsletter were published.
- The Forest Research Institute undertook doctoral and post doctoral research programmes in various disciplines of forestry at different institutes of ICFRE. Post graduate diploma courses on Plantation Technology, Pulp and Paper Technology and Biodiversity Conservation were also imparted during the year.
- The Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun, undertook training programmes for 25, 22 and 27 IFS probationers belonging to 2000, 2001 and 2002 courses of respectively. The academy also conducted 10 in-service courses on Advanced Forest Management for senior officers during the year.
- The Directorate of Forest Education, Dehradun, organized various short-term courses, and in-service courses for State Forest Service Personnel, Range Forest Officers etc. during the year. Theme based training courses have been organised since Dec. 2003.

- The Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI) Bangalore, conducted the post graduate diploma courses in “Technology for Forests Products” and several short-term courses for the industry personnel. The institute also organized three special training courses for senior Indian Forest Service Officers (IFS) during the year.
- At Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal so far 14 batches consisting of 396 students have completed the two year Post Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management (PGDFM). The 15<sup>th</sup> batch of PGDFM consisting of 42 students has passed out in March 2004 and the 16<sup>th</sup> batch is underway.

## Wildlife Education and Training

- The XIX PG Diploma Course for the officers from various States/Union Territories in the country as well as from other countries was completed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, during the year.
- The VIII M.Sc. course of two years duration on ‘Wildlife Science’, was completed and the course IX started.
- An Asia Regional Workshop on ‘Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Climate Change’, was organised and it was co-sponsored by IUCN-Biodiversity Programme.
- A number of training programmes on Wildlife Management, Biodiversity Conservation, Eco-tourism Planning and Management, Wetland Conservation and Management in the Protected Areas, etc., were also conducted by the WII during the year.

## National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)

- Special in-house as well as outreach oriented programmes were regularly organized for the benefit of school children, college students, teachers and the general public.
- Special programmes to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of NMNH and the World Environment Day were organized on 5<sup>th</sup> June’2003. Essay, painting competitions and open-house quiz

competition for school children were also organized to celebrate the Earth Day.

- The Regional Museums of Natural History at Mysore, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar continued their activities on conservation and education amongst various target groups during the year.

## **Fellowships and Awards**

- The Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar (IGPP) is given for the year 1999 has been conferred. The selection of the awardees for the years 2000, 2001 has been finalised and 2002 and 2003 is under process.
- The Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Awards (IPVM) are given for innovative efforts and outstanding work in afforestation, with special reference to wastelands development and involvement of the people. The Awards for the years 2001 and 2002 were conferred on September 16, 2002.
- The Advisory committee for Pitambar Pant National Environment Fellowship Award has shortlisted three proposals.
- The B.P. Pal National Environment Fellowship Award for 2003 has been conferred on Dr. C . Satish Kumar of TBGRI, Trivandrum. He will work on “Red Data Book of Indian Orchids”.
- The National Awards for Prevention of Pollution and Rajiv Gandhi Environment Awards for Clean Technology 2002-2003 were given to 5 categories of highly polluting industries in the large scale sector: (i) M/s Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd., Roper, Punjab (Cement) (ii) M/s Tata International Ltd., Dewas. M.P. (Tanneries) (iii) M/s Chemtech Processors, Kancheevaram, Tamil Nadu (Textile Dyeing), (iv) M/s Shriram Alkali & Chemicals, Bharauach, Gujarat (Caustic Soda) and (v) Hirakud Power Plant of M/s Indian Aluminium Company Ltd., Hirakud, Orissa (Thermal Power Plants).

## **Environmental Education, Awareness and Training**

### **Formal Environmental Education**

- The pilot project for strengthening environmental

concepts in school curriculum launched by the Ministry last year made good progress. The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Programme was included in the Environment Education in school program to provide hands-on learning experience to the students. This World Bank supported project has been designed in two phases. In the first phase, a critical content analysis was undertaken in order to know the status of environment content in the textbooks currently being used in the schools. Based on the findings of Phase-I, the second Phase of pilot implementation was designed.

### **Strengthening Environment Education in Indian Management Schools**

- An initiative has been taken to introduce environmental concepts and issues in the education syllabi of various professional management courses. The course content was examined and workshops have been conducted to develop new curriculum and also to develop resource base for teaching material. Workshops were also conducted to sensitize the faculty of management colleges towards environmental issues.

### **Non-formal Environment Education and Awareness**

- The National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) started in 1986 for creating environmental awareness at all levels was continued during the year with the major theme “Water-Elixir of Life”. The action oriented component introduced last year was further strengthened.
- Organizations were provided financial assistance for organizing various awareness creating activities, such as padyatras, rallies exhibit it and for preparation and distribution of environment education resource material and for following it up with action oriented activities on these issues. Diverse target groups such as students, youth, teachers, tribal and rural population, professionals etc. were covered under the campaign.
- The Ministry intensified the eco-clubs programme to increase coverage and activity with the intention of mobilizing youth for environmental action. The student members of eco-clubs constitute the National

Green Corps (NGC). The program aims to establish Eco-clubs in at least 100 schools in each district of the country thereby covering around 55,000 schools.

- To encourage individual and private organizations to produce documentaries and films on the subjects related to the environment, the Ministry continued the support to a film festival on the theme of environment and wildlife named “Vatavaran-2003” being organised by the Centre for Media Studies, New Delhi.
- The Ministry sponsored a half hour weekly Environmental Magazine Programme on television called BHOOMI which is being telecast on Doordarshan, the National Channel every Sunday.
- One hundred and four proposals were supported for financial assistance under Seminars/Symposia/Workshops/Conferences Scheme to provide a common forum to professionals, scientists, environmentalists and other groups of the society to share up-to-date knowledge on various technical issues related to environment during the year.

## Centres of Excellence

- Nine Centres of Excellence have been set up so far by the Ministry with a view to strengthening awareness, research and training in priority areas of environment science and management.
- During the year, the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad and the CPR Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC), Chennai served as platforms for multi-stake holder consultation for documenting efforts on Sustainable Development.
- Both CEE and CPREEC organized a number of training programmes on environmental education designed for specific target groups and exhibitions on environment to create awareness among the people for conservation of nature and natural resources. Seminars and conferences were also organised.
- During the year, the Centre for Ecological Sciences, (CES), Bangalore carried out projects in the areas of animal behaviour, ecology and on role of juvenile hormones on wasps.

- The Centre for Mining Environment (CME), Dhanbad, continued its three-semester M.Tech. programme in Environmental Science & Engineering and provided environmental management inputs for academic activities of the Indian School of Mines, (ISM) Dhanbad. In addition the center also organized several training programmes on environmental management in mining areas, and conducted a number of R&D activities in its field during the year.
- The Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore focussed its activities in ornithology and conservation of endangered birds during the year. Some of the achievements during the year are:
  - preparation of management plans for better conservation of globally threatened birds.
  - framing of appropriate strategies for protecting the Siberian Crane habitats.
  - preparation of maps showing major wetlands in the country and the salient features and the threats being faced by each of them.
- The Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Eco-system (CEMDE), New Delhi, continued its activities of maintenance of bio-diversity in protected areas, ecological restoration of degraded lands and valuation of ecosystems services.
- The Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), Tiruvananthapuram, the Centre of Excellence for *ex-situ* conservation of tropical plants, continued its activities of conservation by both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* methods and characterization of plant resources using R&D tools for sustainable utilization during the year.
- The Madras School of Economics (MSE) continued its research activities in the area of cost benefit analysis, trade and environment development of economic instruments, etc.
- The Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) initiated 6 major projects. During the year , 225 additional plant species have

been added to the herbarium along with digitized photographs. 1500 herbarium records have been classified.

## Environmental Information

- During the year Environmental Information System (ENVIS) the focal point and the ENVIS centers focused on the development of home page, websites and e-newsletter and laid stress on the strengthening of the databases.
- The ENVIS focal point responded to 266 queries and the ENVIS Centres to over 14,700 Queries.
- The website of the Ministry, <http://envfor.nic.in>, developed by the ENVIS Focal Point was updated continuously and information re-arranged during the year. This site recorded over 7.5 lakh hits during the month of march 2004.
- Information on the SDNP website, URL : <http://sdnp.delhi.nic.in>, developed earlier, which provides information on 27 thematic areas, was scrutinized and updated.
- The ENVIS Focal Point implements the World Bank assisted Environment Management Capacity Building Technical Assistance Project (EMCBTAP), which aims to strengthen the ENVIS scheme of the Ministry. Under this project eighty five ENVIS Nodes have been set up and are now functional.
- A new portal on Environmental Information System at <http://www.envis.nic.in> was developed and launched under the EMCBTAP Project. It acts as a mother portal for all the 85 operative ENVIS Centres and Nodes, and as a catalyst for inter nodal interaction and information on seven broad categories of subjects related to environment, under which the Centres and Nodes have been classified. The websites of the ENVIS Centres and Nodes can also be directly accessed from the home page of the portal.
- Two issues of “Paryavaran Abstracts”, reporting information on environmental research in Indian context were brought out during the year.
- Four issues of “ENVIRO NEWS”, a quarterly news letter was brought out by the division with the

objective of disseminating information about various important policies, programmes, new Acts and rules and amendment to existing legislations.

- All the 85 ENVIS Centres and Nodes continued their activities relating to collection, collation, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information on the subject areas allocated to them during the year, besides strengthening the databases and responding to various national and international queries. The 25 ENVIS Centres developed websites and published newsletters regularly.

## Legislation and Institutional Support

- The Ministry undertook the formulation of a comprehensive National Environment Policy to harmonize the demands of development and environment and to reorient policies and action in conformity with the environmental perspective.
- To augment the resources of the Pollution Control Boards (PCB) the Water Cess Act amended earlier was enforced from May 2003.
- Notifications delegating powers under section 10(1) and 11(1) of the Environment (Protection) Act to officers of the Central Pollution Control Boards (CPCB) and MoEF were issued.
- A Citizens Charter for the Ministry has been prepared on the guidelines provided by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and printed during the year. The Charter includes the Ministry’s vision, aims and objectives, details of business transacted, statement of services provided, details of clients, customers and grievance redress mechanisms, expectations from the client/citizen and the contact points in the Ministry for citizens grievances, etc. The Citizen’s Charter is now available in the Ministry’s website at <http://envfor.nic.in>.

## Women and Environment

- Women’s participation has been built in to the Joint Forest Management Committees which are grassroots level institutions for conservation, protection and management of degraded forests.
- To recognise women’s contribution in the field of

tree plantation, the Ministry has decided to institute a separate Vrikshamitra award for women from 2002. The award comprises a cash award of Rupees one lakh.

## International Cooperation

- In the area of sustainable development, initiatives such as preparation of State of Environment (SoE) Reports, formulation of Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI), formation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development and initiatives on Global Public Goods and Partnerships for Sustainable Development were taken up by the division.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSD was held from 14 to 30 April 2004. The major issues considered by CSD were water, sanitation and human settlement. Action has been initiated to prepare India's National Report for the forthcoming Session of the CSD.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Governing Council / 5<sup>th</sup> Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) of UNEP was held from March 29-31, 2004 at Jeju, South Korea. The Session addressed the state of environment and contribution of UNEP to address various environmental challenges. It also discussed follow up actions arising from WSSD and its contribution in the forthcoming session of the CSD. Other issues which were discussed include international environmental governance and environmental dimension of water, sanitation and human settlement.
- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a financial mechanism that provides grants and low interest loans to developing countries to help them carry out programmes to relieve pressures on global ecosystems. So far, twelve projects are under implementation while one has been completed. Fifteen projects have been approved in principle under GEF, and are in the preparatory phase.
- The Ministry has formulated the National GEF Strategy which will facilitate diagnosis of various problems and to evolve an effective mechanism for planning, formulating, implementing, monitoring and coordination of GEF projects in the country. An Empowered Committee has also been set up for identification of GEF projects, formulation, implementation and monitoring for GEF activities in the country. The committee has met twice in April and December 2003.
- A new Plan scheme has been incorporated in the Tenth Five Year Plan for preparation of State of Environment (SoE) reports. The objective behind this scheme is to highlight the upstream and downstream linkages with environmental issues besides creating a baseline document.
- The following projects have been approved for inclusion in the CCF-II programme :
  - National programme on promoting conservation of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge for enhancing health and livelihood security (US\$ 3 m).
  - Sustainability livelihoods for biodiversity Conservation in Sunderbans (US \$ 0.5 m).
  - Biodiversity conservation – From Analysis to Action (US \$ 3 m)
- The Special Session of the Governing Council of the SACEP was held on 4-7 November, 03. The primary objective of the meeting was to take a view on the report on the SACEP Strategy and Work Programme which covered issues such as financial resources, governance, capacity development in SACEP and Work Programme and Implementation Plan.
- The Second meeting of the India-EU Joint Working Group on Environment was held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2004 in Belgium. The meeting facilitated exchange of views on issues to be raised in multilateral for a like COP 7 of CBD and Climate Change, etc.
- The second meeting of the India-Finland Joint Working Group on Environment was held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2003 in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting focussed on areas of mutual cooperation in the field of Climate Change issues, sustainable development issues, environmental technology in hazardous waste treatment, paper and pulp industry, aox discharge, effluent treatment, chemical water treatment and bio-energy.

## Climate Change

- The Cabinet approved the setting up the National Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) authority in December 2003. The authority had since started functioning and approved 25 projects from sustainable development point of view.
- The ministry in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised ‘Climate Technology Bazaar’ from November 10-13, 2003 in New Delhi. The bazaar showcased environmentally sound and climate friendly technologies from developed countries and India in the fields of renewable energy, energy from waste, resource conservation and energy efficiency etc.
- The ninth conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Milan, Italy during December 1-12, 2003. Honourable Minister of Environment and Forests who was elected as President of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC at the 8th session held in New Delhi in 2002 handed over charge to the Minister of Environment and Water of Hungary in COP 9. The major decisions adopted at COP 9 related to setting for the moratoriums and the procedures for the sinks project, guidance to the GEF to make operationalization at the earliest of the special Climate Change fund.
- A National Workshop on India’s initiate National communication was held in March 2004 at New Delhi. The National Steering Committee constituted for this purpose endorsed the draft initial national communication.

## Ozone

- During the year, seven investment projects (including terminal project for foam, commercial refrigeration and aerosol) and three non-investment projects at a cost of US \$ 13,866, 127 were approved by the Executive Committee of the Montreal Protocol Multilateral fund. These projects will help in phasing out 1428 ODP tones when completed. Of the projects approved earlier, 25 have completed phasing out 1560 ODP tonnes.
- A number of activities were also undertaken during the year to bring about awareness regarding the

harmful effects of Ozone Depleting Substances. The International Day for the protection of ozone layer was celebrated at Mumbai on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2003, and a set of newly designed posters, special covers, stickers and the fifth edition of a book entitled “The Montreal Protocol : India’s Success Story” were released on this occasion. An exhibition of Ozone friendly products developed by industry with assistance from Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund was also organized. One of the companies exhibited refrigerators operating very efficiently with hydrocarbon as a refrigerant.

- Workshops were conducted jointly with State Environment Department and Pollution Control Boards in Six States and four Union Territories (Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir).
- The Executive Committee approved the terminal CFC phase out project in foam, commercial refrigeration and aerosol sectors. The National Phase out plan for production and consumption of CTC was also approved in July 2003 at a cost of US\$ 52 million. The National Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Service Sector Strategy & Policy and Customs Training Strategy were prepared, submitted and also approved at a cost of US\$ 6.33 million by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund in its 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting.

## Administration, Civil Construction, Plan Coordination and Budget

### Administration

- The Ministry, including the National Afforestation & Eco-development Board and the National River Conservation Directorate at the Head Quarters presently has a staff strength of 939.
- During the year, 911 parliament questions pertaining to various aspects of environment, forests and wildlife were dealt with by the Ministry. Out of this 485 were in the Lok Sabha and 426 in the Rajya Sabha.
- In pursuance of the instructions issued by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances and provisions contained in the Manual of Office Procedure, a review of existing

- instructions contained in the compendium issued in 1996 was undertaken and a revised compendium was prepared.
- Ministry is the cadre controlling authority for the Indian Forest Service (IFS), an all India service. This service consists of 24 state cadres including three joint cadres namely the Assam-Meghalaya, Manipur-Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram, Union Territories (AGMUT). The present authorized strength of the Service is 2756. During the year, cadre review meetings were conducted and completed revising the strength and composition of the service in four States.
  - A Grievances Cell has been constituted to ensure timely redressal of public grievances regarding environmental problems. Joint Secretary (Administration) has been nominated as Public Grievances Officer of the Ministry. During the year, 75 grievances were received from the general public, majority of which related to problems of pollution conservation etc or service / pensionary matters of retired personnel.
  - A recreation club in the Ministry has been set up to encourage the employees of the Ministry to participate in social functions, sports, dramatic, library and such other activities. The functioning of the recreation club is monitored by a management committee, elected by the members of the club.
  - “Hindi Fortnight” was celebrated during 16-30<sup>th</sup> September 2003. Competitions were held in hindi essay writing, spelling, quiz, noting/drafting, hindi typing and dictation, etc. during this fortnight. In all these competitions, an amount of Rs. 49,000/- was given as awards to 50 officers/employees of the Ministry.
  - 4 books were selected for the Medini Puraskar Prizes during the year.
  - The “Paryavaran” magazine in Hindi containing scientific and technical articles was brought out regularly by the Ministry during the year .

### Civil Construction Unit

- A Civil Construction Unit was created in the Ministry during 1987, to mainly look after construction activities for various wings of this Ministry, its attached and subordinate offices as well as autonomous organizations located in various parts of the country. The construction activities include laboratory cum office buildings, herbariums, library buildings, auditorium and residential quarters etc. This unit has completed 17 works at various places during 2003-04.
- In these buildings, the use of timber has been eliminated to have a better environment. Low powered CFL fittings are used in common places to have better conservation of power. Solar water heating system is adopted in office buildings at high altitude and in hostels to further add to conservation of electricity.

### Plan Coordination and Budget

- An amount of Rs. 2965.72 crores was the expenditure of Ninth Five Year Plan. An amount of Rs. 5945.00 crores was allocated to the Ministry for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007). The Annual Plan 2002-03 and 2003-04 of the Ministry provided for outlays of Rs 950.49 crores and 1010.00 crores respectively.
- For the Annual Plan 2004-2005 Ministry has been allocated an outlay of Rs.1150.00 crores.