

## India's Environmental Laws: Protection and Management

MURTY, K.S., Nagpur, India

Environment was not considered in its proper perspective when India's industrialisation and developmental activities were initiated after Independence through five year plans. The Indian Constitution stipulates in Article 51 (A), "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures". It is for this and in view that the Mines Act(1952), the Wild-Life(Protection) Act(1972), the Water(prevention and control of pollution) Act 1981 and the Environment(Protection) Act (1986) were passed at different stages. However, over the years there has been progressive pressure on the environment and natural resources, the alarming consequences of which have been evident in increasing proportions. The mining industry, construction of dams for food production and power generation and other activities are indispensable for the national economy of the country. The National Conservation Strategy and the policy statement on environment and Development are in response to the need for laying consideration and guidelines on environment and weave them into the fabric of India's national life and its development process. The Wild-life(Protection) Act was amended in 1991, the Water(Prevention and control of pollution) Act was amended in the same year and a Coastal Regulation Act was passed in 1991. The Indian Parliament enacted the National Environment Tribunal 15 Act in 1992 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases related thereto.