

Foreword

Environmental pollution is assuming dangerous proportions all through the globe, and India is not free from this poisonous disease. This is the gift of modern living, industrialisation and urbanisation. Unless timely action is taken we have a morbid and bleak future for the world. Taking our own example, water technology experts have estimated that large parts of India will go without water by the year 2025 A.D. if the present alarming rate of consumption by domestic and industrial users continue. Studies have revealed that our rivers and lakes are heavily polluted. Even the mighty Ganga in the North and the Cauvery in the South are getting so heavily polluted that they have become a threat to aquatic life and human population. Air pollution, apart from causing health hazard to the urban population, is even threatening our most valuable national monument, the Taj. Developed countries like the U.S.A. and England did not give concerted thought to this problem till the early sixties. In India, hardly any attention was given to the problem till 1974 when the Central Government enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Environmental pollution is thus a late arrival on the scene, and air and noise pollution even later, but once realisation has dawned on the mankind that it may lead to the annihilation of the world, there is no turning back from taking imminent action for the sake of survival of the humanity. The Indian Law Institute was thus happy to organise the Seminar on "Legal Control of Environmental Pollution" in May 1977. The Seminar was inter-disciplinary in nature and was attended by environment scientists, administrators, men of law and representatives of the water pollution control boards. Three major areas were covered—water, air and noise pollution. This book contains selected papers presented at the Seminar, and also a summary of the suggestions and recommendations of the Seminar. The Seminar was the first venture of its kind in India in the sense of creating an awareness among the legal community that environmental pollution calls for action not only from others but also from them. It is hoped that the present book would be found useful by persons of different disciplines engaged in the all important task of controlling environmental pollution. The book may also be used by the law schools in the country which are interested in introducing the subject of environmental pollution in their legal curricula.

I am thankful to the participants of the Seminar for presenting learned papers, and to Professor S.L. Agarwal, Research Professor of the Indian Law Institute, for editing the volume and seeing it through the press.

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