

Environmental Regulation Expected in the Future

The Prevention and Control of Pollution (Uniform Consent Procedure) Rules, 1999

The Government of India has brought out these draft rules with a view that a Uniform Consent Procedure be followed by all State Pollution Control Board and Pollution Control Committees. Under these rules industries have been categorized into Red, Orange and Green for the purpose of consent management and the consent shall be issued for a period of 2, 3 and 5 years respectively. Further these rules provides for a common application for consent under Water Act, Air Act and Authorization under Hazardous Waste(Management & Handling) Rules.

Market Based Instruments for Industrial Pollution Abatement

In an effort to address the problem of industrial pollution, the Ministry of Environment and Forests signed an agreement with the World Bank to implement a World Bank assisted industrial pollution prevention project in India. As a part of this agreement, a task force was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to evaluate the feasibility of adopting market-based instruments (MBIs) for industrial pollution abatement. The task force was asked to carry out the following:

- Review the regulatory and fiscal regime of industrial pollution abatement in India.
- Suggest measures to improve the effectiveness of existing fiscal instruments.
- Identify the need for additional MBIs and examine their feasibility.
- Develop a plan of action for introducing the MBIs.
- Prepare a report with the recommendation of the task force.

The task force recently submitted its report to the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Ministry plans to hold a national seminar on the report to help with formulating decisions regarding the introduction of MBIs.
