

Environment Department

Executive Summary

The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 sets out that 'environment includes water, air and land and the inter-relationship which exists among and between water, air and land, human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organisms and property'. Sustainable development involves the integration of social, environmental and economic objectives.

Under the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution of India, Article 48(A) enjoins upon the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country whereas Article 51-A (g) prescribes the duty of the citizen for protection and improvement of the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife as also to have compassion for living creatures.

The population of Lucknow City had been projected as 24.90 lakh and 28.17 lakh in the years 2006 and 2011 respectively in the Detailed Project Report (February 2007) for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), prepared by Regional Centre for Urban and Environment Studies (RCUES) for Lucknow Nagar Nigam (LNN). This rapid growth has impacted the environment and its various resources including land, water and bio-diversity. Major audit findings of the performance audit are discussed below:

- The Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (UPPCB), the main agency for enforcement of Environmental Acts/Rules and responsible for formulation of policy for prevention, control and abatement of pollution did not perform its role effectively. It failed to plan a comprehensive programme for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in Lucknow City since its inception in 1975. Lucknow Nagar Nigam also failed to fulfill their mandate in relation to prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.
- Low priority was accorded to environmental issues by the State Government as expenditure on it was reduced from ₹ 14.08 crore (0.025 per cent) to ₹ 3.11 crore (0.002 per cent) of total expenditure of the State during 2005-11. Similarly, UPPCB also spent very little amount on pollution abatement measures, which ranged between 0.54 per cent and 1.26 per cent of the total expenditure of UPPCB during 2005-11.
- Due to inadequate laboratory infrastructure, inadequacy of data, the State Government and its agencies were unable to effectively plan and implement their strategy and programmes.

- Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respiratory Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) were higher than the permissible limit of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) as brought out in *paragraph number 4.2.1*.
- Lack of modern equipments and non-upgradation of emission checking equipment with UPPCB, Regional Transport Officer (RTO) and Traffic Police resulted in ineffective monitoring of air pollution.
- Despite its mandate, LNN did not adhere to the implementation schedule for the management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), including segregation of waste at source into biodegradable, recyclable and inert waste, even after the lapse of more than ten years of implementation schedule of MSW Rules.
- Lack of co-ordination of UPPCB with various Government agencies to identify the existing Health Care Units in Lucknow City resulted in unreliable assessment of Bio Medical Waste (BMW) generated.
- Three major hospitals including State owned Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) did not have adequate incineration facilities for BMW.
- UPPCB failed to discharge its duty to identify all the sellers and users of plastic carry bags to verify their compliance with the environmental standards under the Plastics Manufacture, Sale and Usage Rules, 1999 (PM Rules). Also, it did not identify all the manufacturers, dealers, sellers, recyclers and bulk consumers of batteries in Lucknow City resulting in non-compliance to the Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 (BM Rules) even after nine years of its framing.
- Massive constructions worth ₹ 2382 crore were allowed by the UPPCB in Lucknow city without prior environment clearance from the State level Environment Impact Assessment Authority.