CHAPTER 9

ADMINISTRATIVE REGIME FOR
POLLUTION CONTROL

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974\(^1\) confers
the power to Union Government to constitute Central Pollution Control
Board and State Governments\(^2\) to constitute State Pollution Control Boards.
For the effective implementation and enforcement of the different pollution
control Acts and rules statutory authorities at National level (including
Union Territories) Central Pollution Central Board and at State level State
Pollution Control Boards have been constituted.

9.2 MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL POLLUTION
CONTROL BOARD

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1974)\(^3\) and Air
(Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1981)\(^4\) assign different functions
to the Central Pollution Control Board. They are mainly:

- to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas
  of the states under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution)
  Act, 1974.

- to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate
  air pollution in the country under Air (Prevention and Control
  of Pollution) Act, 1981.
❖ advise the Central Government on any matter, concerning the prevention and control of water pollution, similarly for the improvement of the quality of air and the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution.

❖ coordinate the activities of the State Boards and resolve disputes among them.

❖ provide technical assistance and guidance to State Boards, carry out and sponsor investigations and research relating to problems of water and air pollution and for their prevention, control or abatement.

❖ plan and organize the training of persons engaged or to be engaged in programs for the prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution on such terms and conditions as the Board may specify.

❖ organize through mass media comprehensive programs in connection with the prevention and control of water and air pollution.

❖ collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data relating to water and air pollution, devise measures for their effective prevention and control, prepare manuals, codes or guides relating to air pollution, treatment and disposal of sewage and trade effluents and disseminate the information connected therewith:

❖ lay down, modify or annul, in consultation with the state government concerned, the treatment for a stream or well under Water Act and lay down standards for the quality of air under Air Act.
❖ collect and disseminate information in respect of matters relating to water and air pollution.

❖ establish or recognize a laboratory or laboratories to enable the Board to perform its function effectively under Water Act including the analysis of samples of water from any stream or well or of samples of sewage or trade effluents, and similarly air samples under Air Act.

❖ to perform the functions of the State Board where the State Board has defaulted in complying with the directions of the Central Board resulting into grave emergency and where it is required to do so in the public interest.

❖ perform such other functions as may be prescribed.

9.3 MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARDS

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1974) and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (1981) assign the following functions to the State Pollution Control Boards. They are mainly:

★ to plan a comprehensive programme for the prevention, control or abatement of pollution of streams and wells in the state and to secure the execution thereof under Section 17 of the Water Act and similarly for the control of air pollution in the state under Section 17 of the Air Act.

★ to advise the State Government on any matter concerning the prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution.
★ to collect, compile and disseminate information relating to water and air pollution and the prevention, control or abatement thereof.

★ to encourage, conduct and participate in investigations and research relating to problems of water and air pollution and prevention, control or abatement thereof.

★ to collaborate with the Central Board in organizing the training of persons engaged or to be engaged in programs relating to prevention, control or abatement of water and air pollution and to organize mass education programs relating thereof.

★ to inspect sewage or trade effluents, works and plants for the treatment of sewage and trade effluents and to review plans, specifications or other data relating to plants set up for the treatment of water works for the purification thereof and the system of the disposal of sewage or trade effluents or in connection with the grant of any consent as required by the Water Act.

★ to inspect at all reasonable times any control equipment, industrial plant or manufacturing process and to give, by order, such directions to such persons as it may consider necessary to take steps for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution as specified in the Air Act.

★ to inspect air pollution control areas at such intervals as it may think necessary, assess the quality of air therein and take steps for the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution in such areas.
★ to lay down, modify or annul effluent standards for the sewage and trade effluents and for the quality of receiving waters (not being water in an inter-state stream) resulting from the discharge of effluents and to classify waters of the state under Water Act.

★ similarly to lay down, in consultation with the Central Board and having regard to the standards for the quality of air laid down by the Central Board, standards for emission of air pollutants into the atmosphere from industrial plants and automobiles or for the discharge of any air pollutants into the atmosphere from any other source whatsoever not being a ship or an aircraft.

★ to evolve economical and reliable methods of treatment of sewage and trade effluents having regard to the conditions of soil, climate and water resources of different regions and more especially the prevailing flow characteristics of water in streams and wells which render it impossible to attain even the minimum degree of dilution.

★ to advise the state government with respect to the suitability of any premises or location for carrying on any industry which is likely to cause air or water pollution.

★ to evolve methods of utilization of sewage and suitable trade effluents in agriculture.

★ to perform such other functions as may be prescribed or as may from time to time, be entrusted to it by the Central Board or the State Government.

★ to establish or recognize laboratories for analysis of water samples of any sewage or trade effluents and air samples.
Fig. 9.1: ORGANISATION CHART OF TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD