

## CHAPTER – 2

### OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The review of the functioning of the State Pollution Control Boards was taken up by the Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) at the instance of Planning Commission. The design and questionnaires of the study were finalized after holding informal discussions between the officials of the PEO and the Central Pollution Control Board.

#### I. Objectives of the Study

2.2 The broad objectives of the study are:

- i) To study the structure, organizational set-up, staffing pattern, finances and training requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards vis-à-vis their existing functions and activities;
- ii) To examine the functioning of the Boards with reference to their functions stipulated in the Pollution Control Acts; and
- iii) To identify the constraints in the functioning of the Boards and to suggest measures to remedy them.

#### II. Scope of the Study

2.3 The scope of the present study is different from that of other PEO studies, which assess performance, adequacy of implementation methods, process of delivery and impact by a sample survey of concerned institutions and beneficiaries. Since the management of pollution is a technical matter and the delivery of “cleaner environment” as a public service presents problems of quantification, the scope of this study is restricted only to the functioning of the State Pollution Control Boards.

#### III. Reference Period

2.4 The Study refers to the Eighth Plan period, i.e. 1992-93 to 1996-97, and to the year 1997-98.

#### IV. Design and Sources of Information

2.5 The State Pollution Control Boards of all the 25 States were included in the study. Two Questionnaires were canvassed with each Board. The Questionnaire-I probed the composition and sources of revenue and expenditure of the Boards over the period from 1992-93 to 1997-98. The Questionnaire-II was designed to elicit information on the organizational structure, infrastructure and activities of the Boards. Among other things, this questionnaire sought information on the staffing

pattern of the Boards, availability of building and laboratory facilities, water and air quality monitoring status of the SPCBs, their R&D activities and awareness programmes, pollution abatement status of major polluting industries and the opinion of the Boards' officials about crucial aspects of their functioning.

2.6 The latest Annual Report collected from each Board supplemented the information obtained through structured questionnaires. The qualitative notes prepared by the concerned REOs/PEOs elaborated on the composition, functions, activities and finances of the State Pollution Control Boards. The views expressed by SPCBs on the constraints faced by them and alternatives for improvement also were used in the preparation of the report.

2.7 Secondary information collected from the various publications of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Central Pollution Control Board and Central Statistical Organization were made use of in different stages of analysis to transcend the serious data problems.