

Water Legislation

Enactments by Centre



The Easement Act, 1882

- Provides every landowner with the right to use all water under the land. This effectively makes Ground Water a private property



River Boards Act, 1956

- Enacted under Entry 56 of List -I (Union List)
- For establishment of River Boards to promote integrated and optimal development of inter-State rivers and river valleys
- No River Board has been set up under this Act
- MoWR has constituted a committee in 2012 to review the Act which has recommended enactment of new Act



Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956

- Enacted under Art 262 of the Constitution
- Provides for setting up of Water Disputes Tribunals for adjudication of disputes relating to inter-State rivers when negotiations do not lead to fruitful results
- An amendment bill was introduced in Lok Sabha in March 2017 to establish a permanent Water Disputes Tribunal at the centre to resolve the disputes expeditiously



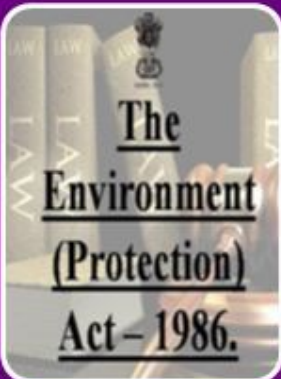
Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974

- For prevention and control of water pollution, and for maintaining or restoring of wholesomeness of water
- Led to setting up of Central and State Pollution Control Boards



Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977

- For levy and collection of cess on water consumed by persons operating and carrying on certain types of industrial activities



Environment Protection Act, 1986

- For protection and improvement of the environment. Empowers the union government to establish authorities with a mandate of preventing environmental pollution in all its forms

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Institutional Arrangements