

ANNUAL REPORT

2004 – 2005

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board reaffirms its commitment to contributing towards a clean and sustainable environment and continually enhancing the environmental performance as part of its endeavour for a clean and green West Bengal



West Bengal Pollution Control Board

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Published by :

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Printed at :

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Kolkata-700 054
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About the Annual Report

The Annual Report of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board during the financial year 2004-2005 has two sections: the first part describes the statutory mandates of the Board, its composition, organisational structure and the present infrastructure of the Board, while the second part encompasses an array of the environmental issues and activities of the Board, thus presenting a clear picture of the state of environment of West Bengal during the time period in question.



2004-2005: AT A GLANCE

- The Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, launched the Board's first-ever online environmental clearance site for the 'Green category of Industries' on October 3, 2004 in presence of Shri Manabendra Mukhopadhyay, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Information Technology. With this launch, the Board entered into an era of **second generation e-governance**.
- The 'Environmental Excellence Award' instituted by the West Bengal Cleaner Production Centre, a collaborative effort of the WBPCB, Indian Chamber of Commerce and National Cleaner Production Centre, New Delhi was conferred to industries, local bodies and service sector organisations. On October 3, 2004, Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister conferred the prestigious Award to three industries for the Industry Category, two industries for sustained environmental performance as well to four service sector organisations (including NGOs). Three local bodies were felicitated with the Environmental Appreciation Certificate in recognition of their efforts to protect the environment.
- The WBPCB has issued 3705 applications for 'Consent to Establish' and 6125 applications for 'Consent to Operate' to red, orange and green categories of industries during 2004-2005.
- A **Common Hazardous Waste Treatment Storage & Disposal Facility at Haldia** is being set up jointly by the Haldia Development Authority, WBPCB and the Environmental Protection Department, Government of West Bengal. The facility named **Common Hazardous Waste Management Facility** has been set up and land has been allocated to cater to the entire state.
- In association with the State Department of Transport, the West Bengal Pollution Control Board has facilitated the setting up of **148 computerised and upgraded Auto Emission Testing Centres (AETCs) and Pollution-under-Check (PUC) centres** in West Bengal.
- Like every year, the Board conducted **noise level monitoring** on Kali Puja, Kali Puja and during Kali Puja/Idol immersion. The Board received 10000 complaints during Kali Puja/Idol immersion.
- The Board launched the **WBPCB Environmental Campaign** on June 5, 2003. Under the Campaign, 93 events under seven themes were conducted during the year 2004-2005.
- Under the **ICEF Project**, out of a total of 204 units having small boilers within KMC, 180 (88%) have completed fuel change conversion, 12 (6%) under various stages of conversion and 12 (6%) are closed. Out of total 23 units having ceramic



kilns within KMA, 23 (78%) have completed fuel change conversion and 5 (22%) having no ceramic kilns.



of hazardous waste in West Bengal, management of wetlands of the state and a partial assistance to the Board's "Environment Management Information System" Development Project.

- During the financial year 2004-2005, the total **financial receipts** of the WBPCB (except Cess reimbursement from Government of India) was Rs.1,033.66 lakhs and the **total expenditure** of the Board was Rs.1005.80 lakhs.

Apart from its regular publications, the Board has published five publications on account of World Environment Day 2004 and Paribesh Mela 2005 (**ANNEXURE I**)

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PART I

- I. Role of the Board
- II. Composition of the Board
- III. Organisational Structure
- IV. Infrastructure Development
- V. E-governance



CHAPTER I

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The 'West Bengal Prevention and Control of Water Pollution Board' was constituted immediately after the enactment of the first major environmental legislation of the country, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act in 1974. The Board was renamed as the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) on February 7, 1983. During its long span of more than thirty years, the Board has tried to ensure proper implementation of the statues, judicial and legislative pronouncements and to meet the public demands. Although the Board was initially set up to implement the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, it was subsequently given the responsibility of implementing a series of other environmental Acts and Rules, as indicated below:

- ☞ The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as amended and Rules made thereunder;
- ☞ The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, as amended and Rules made thereunder;
- ☞ The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended and Rules made thereunder;
- ☞ The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, as amended and Rules made thereunder.

☞ The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder:

- The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, as amended
- The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989
- The Bio-medical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, as amended
- The Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999, as amended
- The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000
- The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000
- The Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001
- The Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2001

Objectives of the WBPCB

- To plan comprehensive programme for prevention and control of environmental pollution;

- To advise and suggest the State Government in formulating environmental improvement programmes;
 - To lay down, modify or annual standards for liquid effluents or gaseous emissions from different sources;
 - To ensure functioning of proper treatment system for treatment of liquid, gaseous or solid wastes generated from point sources;
 - To provide leadership and guidance for protecting and preserving the environment;
 - To encourage and conduct research activities on environmental issues;
 - To educate, train and aware the people at large on environmental problems and remedies; and
 - To collect and disseminate information on environmental issues.
- e. To collaborate with the Central Board in organising the training of persons engaged or to be engaged in programmes relating to prevention, control or abatement of water pollution and to organise mass education programmes relating thereto;
 - f. To inspect sewage or trade effluents, works and plants for the treatment or 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 for the disposal of sewage or trade effluents or in connection with the grant of any consent as required by this Act;
 - g. 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;

Functions of the WBPCB

The statutory and other functions of the WBPCB are :

- a. 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;
- b. To advise the State Government on any matter concerning the prevention, control or abatement of water pollution;
- c. To collect and disseminate information relating to water pollution and the prevention, control or abatement thereof;
- d. To encourage, conduct and participate in investigations and research relating to problems of water pollution and prevention, control or abatement of water pollution;
- h. To evolve economical and reliable methods of treatment of sewage and trade effluents, having regard to the peculiar conditions of soils, climate and water resources of different regions and more specially the prevailing flow characteristics of water in streams and wells which render it impossible to attain even the minimum degree of dilution;
- i. To evolve methods of utilisation of sewage and suitable trade effluents in agriculture;
- j. To evolve efficient methods of disposal of sewage and trade effluents on land, as are necessary on account of the predominant conditions of scant stream flows that do not provide for major part of the year the minimum degree of dilution;

- k. To lay down standards of treatment of sewage and trade effluents to be discharged into any particular stream taking into account the minimum fair weather dilution available in that stream and the tolerance limits of pollution permissible in the water of the stream, after the discharge of such effluents;

- l. To make, vary or revoke any order:

- i) For the prevention, control or abatement of discharge of waste into streams or wells;
- ii) Requiring any person concerned to construct new systems for the disposal of sewage and trade effluents or to modify, alter or extend any such existing system or to adopt such remedial measures as are necessary to prevent control or abate water pollution;
- iii) To lay down effluent standards to be complied with by persons while causing discharge of sewage or sullage or both, and to lay down, modify or annul effluent standards for the sewage and trade effluents;
- iv) To advice the State Government with respect to the location of any industry the carrying on of which is likely to pollute a stream or well;
- v) 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.

The Board may establish or recognise a laboratory or laboratories to enable the Board

to perform its functions efficiently, including the analysis of samples of water from any stream or well or of samples of any sewage or trade effluents.

Role of the Board

The Board has adopted several innovative approaches to achieve quick and effective results for protecting and preserving the environment of the state, which encompass:

- Issuance of various environmental permits, which include :
 - ☞ Consent to Establish;
 - ☞ Consent to Operate;
 - ☞ Authorisation for hazardous waste management;
 - ☞ Authorisation for bio-medical waste management; and
 - ☞ Permission for import and storage of hazardous chemicals.
- Ensuring control of pollution through such instruments;
- Generation and dissemination of data related to environmental quality through regular monitoring and surveillance;
- Conducting research & development activities on environmental matters;
- Encouraging & promoting environmental research by academicians and institutions;
- Imparting training on environment;
- Building environmental awareness for the community; and
- Addressing public grievances through redressal of environmental problems.

CHAPTER II

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board comprises of the Chairman, the Member Secretary and 15 other members nominated by the State Government. The eminent members of the Board include the representatives from all sectors of the society with experience in environmental protection, forestry, law, environmental science and technology and local government. During the time period under review, the members of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board were as follows:

Chairman

- ☞ Shri Manabendra Mukherjee, Minister-in-charge, Departments of Environment & Information Technology, Government of West Bengal (from 25th March, 2004 to July 2004) ; and
- ☞ Prof. (Dr.) Sudip K. Banerjee (02.08.04 till date).

Representatives of the State Government

- ☞ The Secretary, Department of Environment ;
- ☞ The Secretary, Department of Cottage & Small-Scale Industries ;
- ☞ The Secretary, Department of Commerce & Industries ;
- ☞ The Secretary, Department of Science & Technology; and
- ☞ The Secretary, Department of Transport.

Representatives of the Local Authorities

- ☞ The Mayor, Kolkata Municipal Corporation ;
- ☞ The Mayor, Howrah Municipal Corporation ;
- ☞ The Mayor, Durgapur Municipality Corporation ;

- ☞ The Chairperson, Bhadreswar Municipality; and
- ☞ The Chairperson, Haldia Municipality.

Representatives of the State-controlled Co-operatives

- ☞ The Managing Director, West Bengal Forest Development Corporation ; and
- ☞ The Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation

Representatives of the Technical & Scientific Community

- ☞ Dr Abirlal Mukherjee, Ex-Head of Dept., ENT, Calcutta Medical College;
- ☞ Prof S K Sanyal, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, Jadavpur University; and
- ☞ Prof. M K Banerjee, Head, Dept. of Metallurgy, B E College.

Member Secretary

- ☞ Dr. S. K. Sarkar, IAS (02.07.03).

CHAPTER III

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE WBPCB

The Board functions through its Head Office at Kolkata, three Circle Offices headed by three Senior Environmental Engineers, nine Regional Offices and one Sub-Regional Office. The specific functions of the different cells located at the Head Office of the Board are illustrated below.

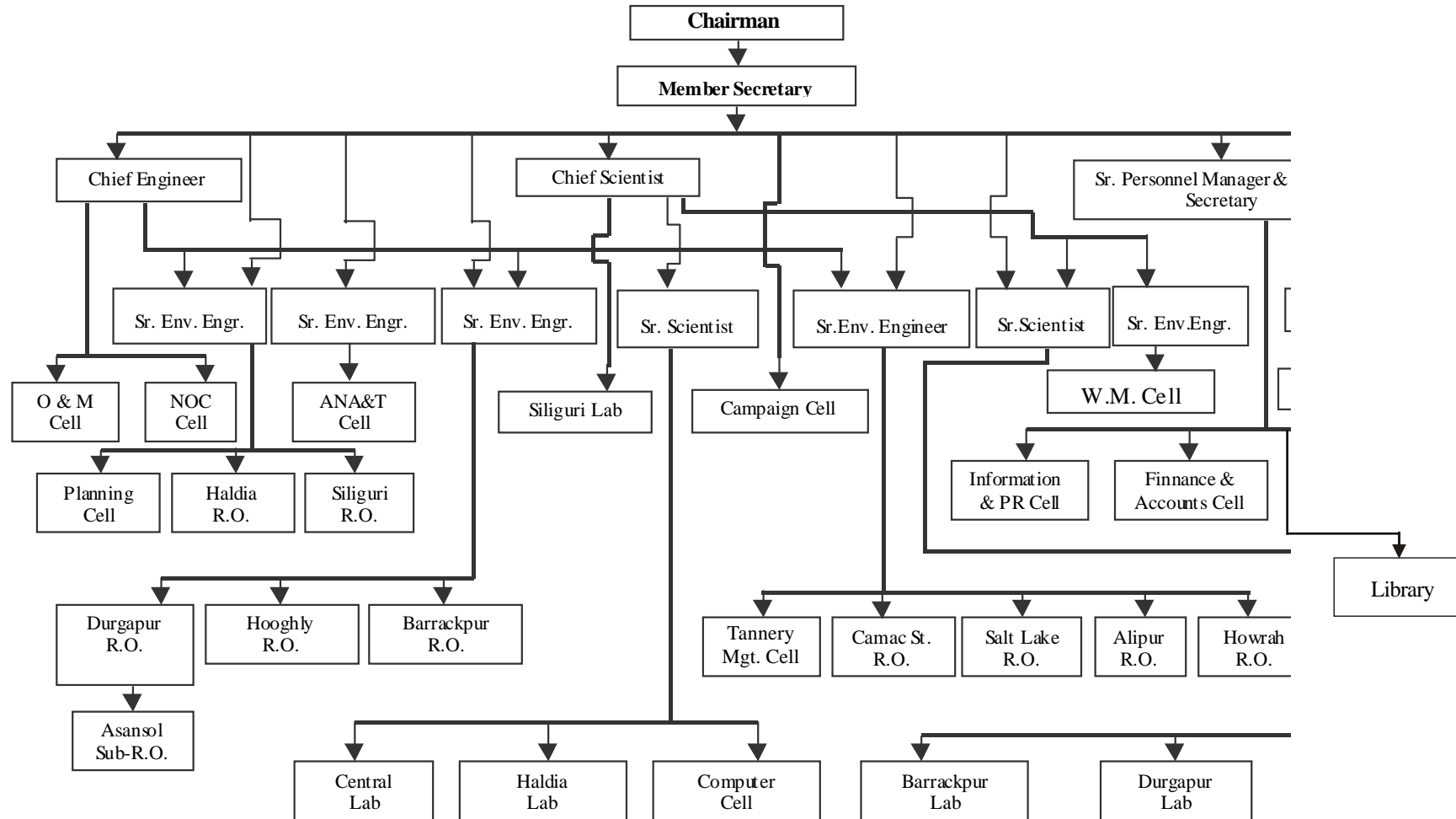
Planning Cell: The main functions of the Planning Cell include consent and cess administration, planning and coordination with other offices and government departments, environmental monitoring, collection and analysis of pollution related data, activities related to automobile pollution, processing of audit queries and introduction of economic instruments for abatement of industrial pollution. The office of the Sr Environmental Engineer (Planning) performs specific functions like inspection and supervision of two regional offices, preparation of SoE and technical reports, updation of air and water quality data for the Board's website etc.

NOC Cell: Under the provisions of the Water Act and the Air Act, any entrepreneur

contemplating for new development within the state including the setting up of new industries must obtain 'Consent to Establish' and all operating units or units about to commence operation must obtain 'Consent to Operate' from the WBPCB. The functions of the Cell include processing of related files for large/medium scale industries and also industries attracting EIA notification, activities related to public hearing and technical hearing of the grossly polluting industries (GPIs).

Waste Management Cell: The Cell implements the Rules related to major wastes (like hazardous waste, bio-medical waste, municipal solid waste, plastic waste etc) notified by the MoEF, GoI, under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Cell is also responsible for the implementation of provisions of the environmental legislations such as the PLI Act. The other functions include hazardous waste authorisation, import license of hazardous chemicals, site selection for hazardous waste disposal etc.

Organisational Structure of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board



Notes : W. M. Cell : Waste Management Cell ; P R Cell ; Public Relation Cell ; R. O. : Regional Office ; Lab : Laboratory ; O & M : Operation & Maintenance ; NOC Cell : No-Objection Certificate Cell ; ANA & T Cell : Air, Noise, Automobile & Training Cell ; Admin. : Administration ; Mgt. : Management

Cess Administration Cell: This Cell deals with matters related to technical scrutiny of water consumption, assessment of water cess and works related to Cess Appellate Authority.

Operation & Maintenance Cell: The maintenance of the buildings of the head office and regional offices of the Board as well as dealing with matters related to Committees of the Legislative Assembly are the main functions of the Cell.

Air, Noise, Automobile & Training Cell: The major functions of this Cell include survey on noise pollution and the use of plastics and fire crackers, monitoring of noise level during festivals, automobile pollution survey and survey of Pollution-Under-Control (PUC) centres and Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (AAQM) stations under the JBIC project. The other functions include conducting training programmes related to environmental pollution for the government authorities, local bodies, school children and NGOs. It also deals with matters related to the National Green Corps (NGC) programme in West Bengal, a programme introduced by the Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF), Government of India (GoI), for spreading environmental awareness among school children.

Tannery Management Cell: This Cell looks after the consent administration of the tannery units within the Calcutta Leather Complex, monitors the implementation of pollution control / waste management facilities of the individual units and the common effluent treatment plant and waste management facilities of the leather complex as a whole.

ICEF Project Cell: This Cell deals with matters related to the implementation of the India-Canada Environment Facility (ICEF) Project.

Legal Cell & Public Grievance Cell: The main function of the Legal Cell is to supervise the legal matters of the Board. To take appropriate actions against various complaints, these are received in the public grievance

cell are acknowledged, enquired into, inspected and redressed in a hearing in the presence of complainant and the industry concerned. Every Saturday, a public hearing is organised at Paribesh Bhawan where the aggrieved complainant and the industry concerned are asked to appear before the hearing authority. Everyone is given an equal opportunity of being heard.

Campaign Cell: The main functions of this Cell are to coordinate programmes with government departments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and to implement various awareness-generation programmes for the protection of environment, forest and wildlife in West Bengal. This Cell also looks after the effective implementation of the National Green Corps (NGC) programme in the state.

Computer Cell: The prime function of this cell is to provide a communication backbone and infrastructure in an e-friendly environment within the WBPCB. The other functions include purchase and maintenance of computer hardware and software, development of programmes, perform activities related to networking, impart training on computer essentials to the Board personnel, and maintenance and updating of the Board's website.

Personnel & Administration Cell: This Cell deals with administrative matters dealing with the employees of the Board such as recruitment, promotion, transfer, all kinds of leaves, annual increment and training matters. It also deals with custodian and other matters related to the declaration of assets, matters related to Board meetings, issue of work orders related to operation & maintenance and also matters related to personnel and office management.

Finance & Accounts Cell: The Board has a centralised accounting system located at the head office of the Board. The functions of this Cell include looking into the entire audit, financial and accounting matters of the Board.

Library: The WBPCB Library keeps an inventory of the comprehensive resource of books, documents, reports, journals, newsletters, newspapers and newsmagazines related to environment. The Library maintains a record of the users (internal and external) borrowing and using the library facilities, and maintains a regular account of updation of the status of documents in the library by means of Koha - an Integrated Library Management System.

Laboratory: The facilities in the laboratories of the WBPCB are capable of performing all

possible analytical works in the field of environment science. A detailed account of the laboratory of the Board is documented in the subsequent part of the present volume.

Information & PR Cell: The Cell deals with all the activities related to fairs, preparation and distribution of static communication tools, such as like posters and handouts for the purpose of generating awareness on environmental pollution. The Cell also interacts with NGOs located in various districts for dealing with pollution related matters of the state.

WBPCB Offices located in Kolkata and other districts of West Bengal

Head Office Paribesh Bhawan 10 - A, Block - LA, Sector - III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 098 Ph : +91 33 2335 7428, 2335 9088, 2335 8211, 2335 8212, 2335 0261, 2335 3913 Fax : +91 33 2335 8213, 2335 2813, 2335 6730, 2335 8073 Email : wbpcbn@wbpcb.gov.in Website : www.wbpcb.gov.in		
Office of the Senior Environmental Engineer (Camac Street) Industry House 2 nd Floor, 10, Camac Strret Kolkata - 700 017 T/F: +91 33 2282 1449	Office of Senior the Environmental Engineer (Planning) Paribesh Bhawan 10 - A, Block - LA, Sector - III Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 098 T/F: +91 33 2335 6730	Office of the Senior Environmental Engineer (Kakinara) Panpur More, Kalyani Expressway, Vill. Panpur, P.O.- Narayanpur - 743126, Dt. 24 Parganas (North) T/F: +91 33 2580 3408 T : +91 33 2502 1188
Regional Office- Camac Street Industry House 2 nd Floor, 10, Camac Strret Kolkata - 700 017 T/F: +91 33 2282 3402	Regional Office - Haldia Super Market Building 3 rd Floor, PO & PS - Durgachak Haldia-721602, Purba Midnapore T/F: +91 3224 274 190	Regional Office - Hooghly Himalay Bhavan Dankuni Coal Complex Delhi Road Dankuni - 711224, Dt. Hooghly T/F: +91 33 2659 0957
Regional Office - Salt Lake Paribesh Bhawan 1 st Floor 10 A, Block - LA, Sector - III Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 098 T/F: +91 33 2335 0663	Regional Office - Siliguri Paribesh Bhawan Paribahan Nagar Matigara, Siliguri, Dt. Darjeeling T/F: +91 353 257 1113	Regional Office - Kakinara Kalyani Express Way, Panpur More, Vill Panpur, Narayanpur - 743126, Dt. 24 Parganas (North) T/F: +91 33 2580 0573 T : +91 33 2502 1189
Regional Office - Alipore Bhawani Bhawan 2 nd Floor, 31, Belvedere Road Kolkata - 700 027 T/F: +91 33 2479 0298		Regional Office - Durgapur Sahid Khudiram Sarani City Centre, Durgapur City, Dt. Burdwan 713 216 T/F: +91 343 254 6708
Regional Office - Howrah 7, Haradeb Bhattacharjee Lane Mandirtala (Near Second Hooghly Bridge Toll Tax Office) Shibpore, Howrah T : +91 33 2678 4677 T/F : +91 33 2678 6355		Sub Regional Office - Asansol Ghanty Mansion 2 nd Floor, 60 G.T.Road Asansol - 713301, T/F: +91 341 220 5407

CHAPTER IV

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Board started functioning in a very humble way with skeletal infrastructure in a rented building in 1974. However, with the state government's continued emphasis in improving its infrastructure for efficient environmental management in the state, the Board is now headquartered in the stylish and environment friendly, Paribesh Bhawan, at Salt Lake, Kolkata.

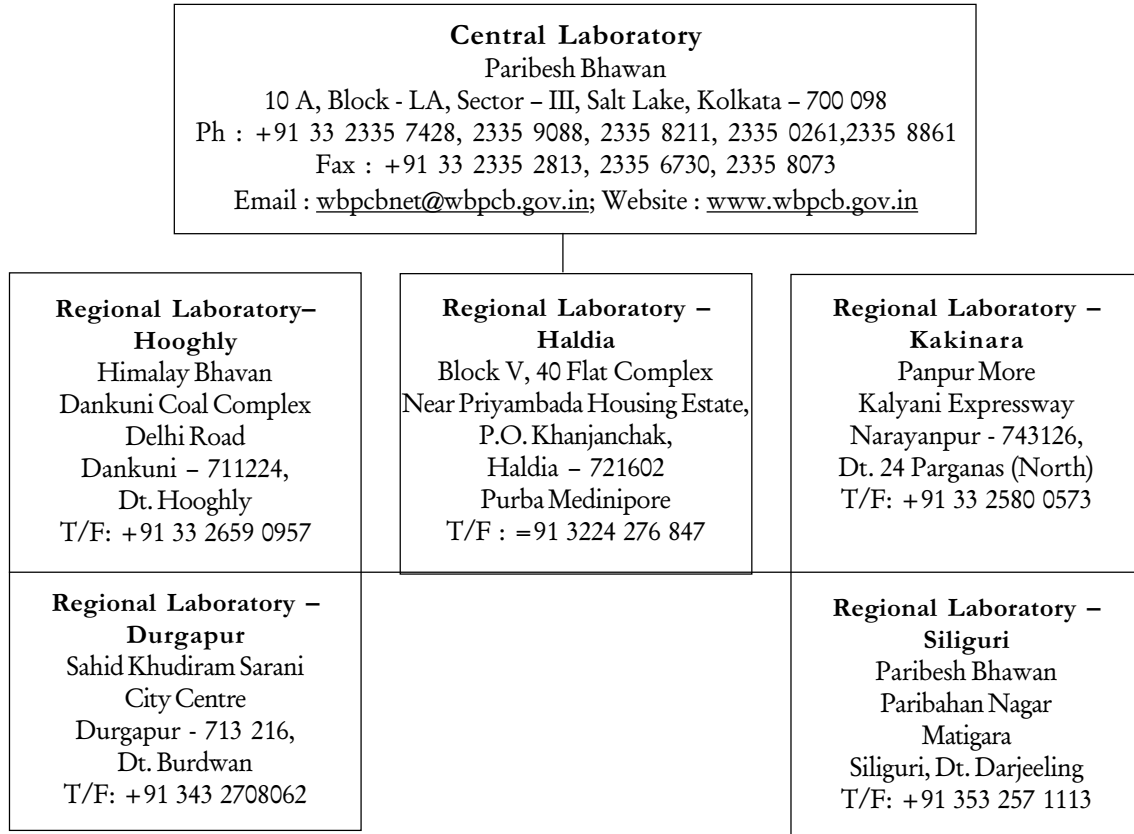
Laboratory Facilities

The Board has a Central Laboratory at Kolkata and five other Regional Laboratories at Kakinara, Durgapur, Hooghly, Haldia and Siliguri. The quantum improvement of the infrastructural facilities of the laboratories has been made possible through a financial loan assistance programme from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) 1995. The state-of-the-art analytical laboratories of the Board, especially the one in its head office in Kolkata, can be compared with the best in the world. They are equipped with the most sophisticated instruments, such as, the Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) with furnace and flow injection system, Anodic Stripping Voltmeter (ASV), Ion

Chromatograph, Gas Chromatograph with Mass Spectrophotometer (GC-MS) including Head-space Sampler, Gas Chromatograph with thermal desorption, High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC), Milipore Filtration Technique (MFT) etc. These laboratories are also equipped with various types of water and air samplers including Continuous Water Sampler, Cascade Impactor (fractionator for air particulates), Solid Phase Toxic Gas Sampler, Depth Sampler, Sediment sampler etc. In addition to monitoring basic environmental pollutants, these laboratories are capable of monitoring and analysing traceable quantities of inorganic and organic pollutants.

The Board has five other Regional laboratories in Kakinara, Durgapur, Hooghly, Haldia and Siliguri, which are also equipped with sophisticated instruments to analyse various types of air and water samples. The analytical capability of the Board can cater to the need of any environmental analysis required for implementation of various environmental statutes currently in force within the country.

The Board has extended the analytical laboratory facilities of its central laboratory and different regional laboratories, for a prescribed fee, to any organizations or individuals intending to analyse water and wastewater for pollution control. The details of the laboratory setup of the Board are illustrated below.



E-GOVERNANCE

The statutory activities of the Board include issuance of environmental clearances, evaluation of environmental reports, estimation of pollution load from different sources, control of emission from point and non-point sources etc. These activities of the Board require continuous interaction with all the stakeholders like common people, different government agencies, NGOs, industrial business houses etc. As such, hard scientific, legal and managerial capacity, along with huge and diverse information and data processing skills is required to facilitate quick decision-making. The computerisation of the whole system and electronic transfer of data/ information along with its online processing was thought to be the solution for better performance of the Board and its transparent governance.

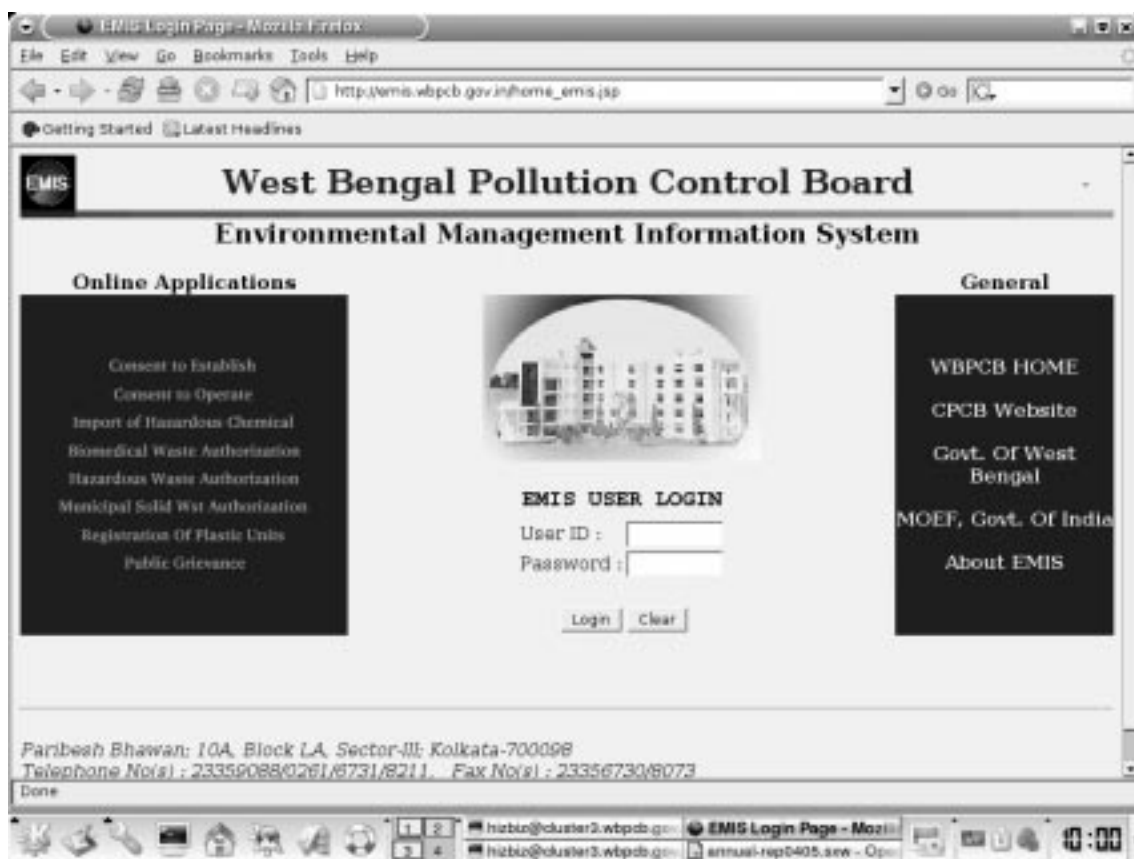
Launching of EMIS - Implementation of true e-governance

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, launched the Board's first-ever online environmental clearance site for the 'Green category of Industries' on October 3, 2004 in presence of Shri Manabendra Mukhopadhyay, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Information Technology. With this launch, the Board entered into an era of second generation e-governance.

The "Environment Management Information System" EMIS is a web based application, which electronically represents the whole gamut of the Board's activities to the citizens. It enables the entrepreneurs to put up their environmental clearance applications through the Internet and also monitor the status of such applications. This will ensure transparency to the process. The system offers online regulatory processing and report creation with a strong database getting automatically updated at the backend with each user action. At its crux, lie smooth electronic clearances of applications under the jurisdiction of environmental laws.

The success of an e-governance application depends heavily on, among others, its sustainability model and replicability. It has to depend on hostile external network conditions where the citizens reside. The design of EMIS has been made to take care of all these issues. The software components used in this application were taken from the Free/Open source Software pool developed by the international community to avoid proprietary software procurement and upgrade cost. The application does not have any intellectual property and vendor lock in, which ensures its easy replicability.

The beneficiaries of this unique application software are listed below.



The Board's Website displaying the EMIS

Industry

- On-line guidance and filling up of application forms for environmental clearances ; and
- Information on the status of processing of the application(s) and the decision of the Board.

General Public

- On-line lodging of environmental complaints and information on status of processing of the complaint ;
- Information on environmental status of sensitive areas, streams and lakes, air quality ; and
- Administrative information and orders in relation to environmental governance.

Academics

- Scientific data and information collected and created by the Board ; and
- Reports on project work in relation to environment and health.

This software will also decrease processing time for environmental clearances and increase the Board's operational transparency. The beneficiaries' matrix is given below.

How many people will benefit from the program?

All stakeholders whose activity falls under the environmental acts :

- ✓ More than 19,000 industrial units ;
- ✓ 600 odd complainants per month ;
- ✓ All public representatives ; and
- ✓ All staff members of the Board.

How and where will it operate ? For how long?

The whole system is operating in the server computers at Paribesh Bhawan. Regional offices of the Board will access the system through Internet for which the networking already exists at eleven offices of the Board.

Who will staff it ?

The Board through M/S CMC LTD has developed the EMIS software. After full implementation, it would be run and maintained by the in-house staff of the Board.

ADB Funded Project to Monitor and Perform backlog Data Population in EMIS

Any large database driven application takes its own time to grow to a position from where meaningful reports can be made. Realising the need of getting immediate decision support from the existing data trapped into environmental clearance applications, the Board planned to populate old data into EMIS. The Asian Development Bank through its Technical Assistance project on "Strengthening Environmental Management at State Level" extended its help to the Board for population of the backlog data. The project was launched by Shri Manabendra Mukhopadhyay, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Information Technology, on October 1, 2004 in presence of the representatives from Govt. of India, Asian Development Bank, Govt. of West Bengal and WBPCB. M/s Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt. Ltd has started the work of EMIS population and monitoring on behalf of the WBPCB and the ADB.

Local Area Networking of more Regional Offices

In March 2004, the Board had local area networks in three sites covering six of its

offices namely, Head Office, Central Laboratory, Office of Senior Environmental Engineer (SEE) Kankinara, Salt Lake Regional Office (RO), Kankinara RO and Durgapur RO. During 2004-2005, five more offices of the Board were networked. The Office of EE (Camac St.), Camac St RO, Howrah RO, Alipore RO and Dankuni RO were brought under the hood of local area networking during this period. The employees and officers were trained to work in networked environment to optimise usage of computing resources including judicious use of printers.

Wide Area Network through High Speed Internet at Regional Offices

The Regional offices of the Board were connected to the Head Office through dial-up Remote Access Server and dial-up Internet connections till March 2004. Since high-speed inter-office connectivity is the key implementation factor for e-governance, the Board analysed available options for wide area networking of its offices. Considering several issues, the Board decided to use the DIAS (Direct Internet Access System) service offered by the Government ISP BSNL for connecting the regional offices with the Head Office at Paribesh Bhawan. The decision of not entering into dedicated point-to-point leased lines was taken based on the sustainability factors of successful e-governance implementation. Nine regional offices, namely, Asansol Sub RO, Durgapur RO, Alipore RO, Howrah RO, Camac St RO, Office of SEE (Camac), Kankinara RO, Office of SEE (Kankinara) and Hooghly RO are presently connected to the Head office through the use of this 128 Kbps high speed Internet. Exchanges of documents, mails, mailing list notices, have now become as simple as starting a PC at the regional office and clicking the browser towards the Board's intranet server.