

notification of sites, preparation of safety reports, import or hazardous chemicals, reporting of accidents etc. The rules clearly specify the responsibilities of persons dealing with hazardous chemicals and duties of authorities. It is mandatory for a person to seek permission from the competent authority for dealing with the listed chemicals. The MoEF is the apex agency governing these rules. In the States and UTs, the State Pollution Control Boards and Committees have been entrusted the responsibility to enforce the statutes.

Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000

- These rules, governed by MoEF, were framed under E.P. Act 1986 and came into force in October 2000. In States and UTs the respective State Pollution Control Boards and Committees have been entrusted responsibility to enforce the norms under the rules. These rules apply to all the manufacturers and users of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and are basically aimed to regulate and control the chemical substances which can have adverse impact on the ozone layer. The regulation includes sale, use, purchase, consumption, export and imports of ODS and also new investments on the same. This also regulates import, export and sale of products made with or containing ODS. Reclamation and destruction of ODS by any person is also regulated under these rules. The rules have listed the names of ozone depleting chemicals under seven groups, their substitutes and phase-out schedule. It is mandatory for all the concerned to observe the provisions mentioned in the rules.

Factories Act, 1948

- This deals with industries, including those that are engaged in hazardous processes and are using hazardous chemicals. The Act has prescribed upper permissible levels of over 100 chemicals and toxic substances for exposure on TWA and STEL basis. The Act has also defined 29 types of industries, including chemical industries, which involve hazardous processes. The Act suggests for observing effective measures while handling hazardous chemicals or working in area where hazardous chemicals are being used. Any person coming under purview of this Act is required to obtain necessary permissions from the Chief Inspector of Factories or the State Government for specified tasks. The Act is governed by Ministry of Labour, GoI. Department of labour and Directorate of Industrial Health & Safety may be contacted in the respective States for matters related therewith.

Public liability Insurance Act, 1991

- This was enacted in 1991. The Act provides for the public liability Insurance for the purpose of providing

immediate relief to the persons affected by accident occurring while handling any notified hazardous chemical and matters connected therewith. All the establishments handling hazardous Chemicals, and coming under purview of Act, are required to obtain PLI Policy. The district collectors have been conferred powers for disbursement of relief amount. The Act also has provision for establishment of Environment Relief Fund by the Central Government.

- The Act has specified a list of 179 hazardous chemicals under four groups, viz., reactive, toxic and explosives. The flammable chemicals are classed separately under group 5. The MoEF is enforcing and ensuring the implementation of various provisions stated under the Act. The State Pollution Control Boards/Committees and the district Collectors may be contacted in the matters related therewith.

The Explosive Substances Act, 1908

- This regulates the manufacture, keeping, use, possession sale, conveyance and importation of explosives. The Act has notified the authorized explosives which have been classified under 8 classes and, according to the risks posed by them, they have been divided into four categories. Any person desirous of including an explosive in the list of authorized explosives or renew or amend license under the rules, need to apply to the competent authority. The breach of provisions of rules attract penalty including forfeitures, fines and imprisonment as punishment.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry governs this Act. Department of Explosives has been entrusted the responsibility to enforce it. The Chief Controller of Explosives, having HQ at Nagpur, has jurisdiction through out the country. The Central region, including Madhya Pradesh, comes under jurisdiction of Dy. Chief Controller of Explosives, Bhopal.

Inflammable Substances Act, 1952

- This is an act to declare certain substances to be dangerously inflammable and to provide for the regulation of their import, transport, storage and production. The Act has specified seven chemical substances as dangerously inflammable. The Department of Explosives has been entrusted with the responsibility to ensure implementation of this Act. The Department is headed by Chief Controller of explosives with HQ at Nagpur, five circle offices at kolkata, Agra , Faridabad, Mumbai and Chennai and 18 Sub Circle Offices at various locations apart from a testing station at Gondkhedi, Nagpur.

Petroleum Act, 1934

- This Act deals with import, transport, storage, production, refining and blending of any liquid