

STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORTING : INDIA ON THE FOREFRONT

V. K. RAI¹, N. S. RAMAN² AND S. K. CHOUDHARY³

¹ Chief Manager (Civil), Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

² Dy Director & Principal scientist, NEERI

³ Prof Mechanical Engineering Department,
KDK College of Engineering, Nagpur, India.

Abstract

The basic purpose of the state of the environment reporting framework is to allow for regular reporting on an agreed set of national indicators that show changes and trends in environmental conditions, in much the same way as well-accepted economic indicators are used to report on the state of the economy. State of the environment reports also identify the implications of current activities and resource uses for future environmental conditions and their associated social and economic costs. The reporting system enables the community, private sector interests and government to act in the long-term interests of the environment to pursue the goal of ecologically sustainable development for present and future generations. State of the environment reporting is one of the most powerful tools for informing the public about their environment. It describes the effects of human activities on the condition of the environment and the implications of this for human health and economic well-being. It also provides an opportunity to actively, directly and accountably monitor the performance of government policies against actual environmental outcomes. In this way, it can in effect act as a report card on the condition of the environment and natural resource stocks. This paper highlights the important role played by SOE and the policy initiatives being taken on National level using SOE reports as a baseline data and how SOE reporting helps in evaluating the effectiveness of legislation and policies and, inherently, their administration.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, natural resources

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