

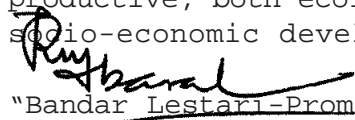
Foreword

In compliance with Section 3(1)(i) of the Environmental Quality Act (EQA), 1974, the 2004 Environmental Quality Report is hereby presented.

Managing the environment sustainably is a challenging task, more so in recent years due to increasing demands on depleting resources and the rapid pace of development. Thus the environmental issues we encounter today are more complex and require more integrated solutions. The traditional management tools alone such as regulatory control are not enough under present circumstances. New innovative means and measures need to be devised by which these complex environmental problems can be dealt with effectively.

Another new dimension to the environmental scenario is the impact of transboundary pollution which has brought to the forefront the reality that pollution respects no boundaries. The haze episodes and the socio-economic impacts speak volumes of this hitherto unrecognised environmental threat.

The Department of Environment will gear itself up to meet these challenges. Foremost in our agenda is to ensure that the environment remains clean, safe, healthy and productive, both ecologically and environmentally, in order to support the socio-economic development of the country.



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With Best Wishes

