

While I have no direct knowledge of the workings of local government there is one matter that I think is being handled very badly.

I refer to the delegation by Central Government to the Regional Authorities of responsibility for the costs of remediating the quality of freshwater resources.

While it is logical for the Local Governments to administer the process, it is quite unreasonable for the costs of doing so, and the remediation costs themselves being burdened on all ratepayers throughout the country.

The remediation of water quality in streams rivers and lakes from farm pollution in particular is going to cost the country a huge sum that is impossible to estimate.

This cost should be born by those who cause the pollution, not the public as whole, and polluters should desist from current avoidable practices and or take all reasonable steps to do so.

If not, they should be charged an appropriate levy relative the environmental damage their economic activity causes.

Central Government should take decisive action where it is clearly established that certain pollution can be stopped immediately or within a short period of time.

Specifically I refer to the continued use by farmers of excessive amounts of nitrogen fertilizers to grow grass and food crops for both humans and animals.

New bio-fertilizers are readily available that can replace chemical fertilizers but it seems that the present industry, which is comprised mainly of two co-operatives owned by about 50,000 farmers is a "sacred cow".

This is a situation well known but successive Governments have failed to do anything about it.

Yours faithfully  
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