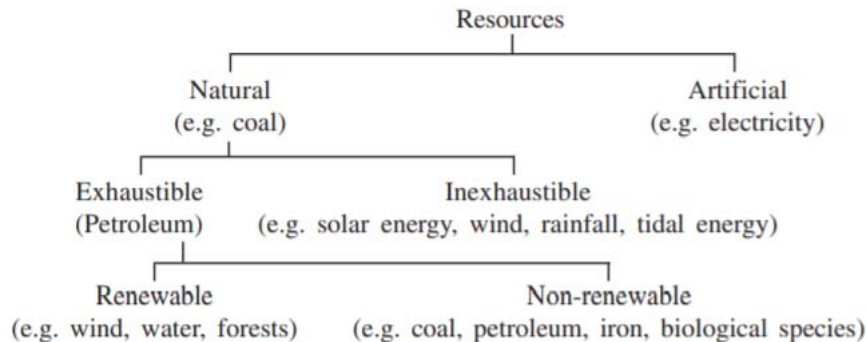


LESSON-26 CONSERVATION AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The growing population, rapid industrialisation and– urbanisation have created heavy demand on natural resources. This lesson deals with means of conservation of natural resources through prevention of resource over exploitation and sustainable development.

Any natural or artificial substance, energy or organism, which is used by human being for its welfare, is called a resource. Two types of resources are, (a) Natural resources; and (b) Artificial resources.

Classification of Natural Resources



Conservation is the sum total of activities, which can derive benefits from natural resources but at the same time prevent excessive use leading to destruction or neglect

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- ✚ Soil is the uppermost layer of earth's crust, which supports growth of plants. It is both a renewable and non-renewable resource.
- ✚ Removal of top layers of soil by wind and water is called **soil erosion**.
- ✚ Thus, erosion causes a significant loss of humus and nutrients, and decreases the fertility of soil.
- ✚ Water is the most important component of all life forms. It regulates climate, generates electricity and is also useful in agriculture and industries. With increase in population and industrial growth, water is degraded day by day. Conservation and management of water are essential for the survival of mankind, plants and animals.
- ✚ The variety of all plants, animals and microbes of a region is termed biodiversity. Biodiversity is essential for maintenance of ecosystem.
- ✚ Though biodiversity is important for our survival, it is under threat due to the various human activities. So we should protect biodiversity by strategies like, (i) In situ conservation, (ii) Ex situ conservation.
- ✚ The endangered species are those, which have been reduced in number to a critical level and facing a high risk of extinction in the near future.

- ✚ The World Conservation Union, formerly International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has enlisted endangered plants and animals in the Red Data Book.
- ✚ The plants, animals and microorganisms other than the cultivated plants and domesticated animals constitute wildlife. Wildlife forms an important resource for maintaining ecological balance. Conserve it by establishing biosphere reserves, national parks and sanctuaries etc.
- ✚ **Wildlife Reserves in India**

Kaziranga sanctuary (Assam) – one-horned rhinoceros
 Manas sanctuary (Assam) – wild buffaloes
 Gir forest (Gujarat) – lions, chital, sambar, wild bears
 Kelameru bird sanctuary (Andhra) – pelicans and marine birds
 Dachigam sanctuary (Jammu and Kashmir) – Kashmir stags, Himalayan tahr, wild goats, sheep, antelopes
 Bandipur sanctuary (Karnataka) – Indian bison, elephants, langurs
 Periyar sanctuary (Kerala) – elephants, barking deer, sambar

Agencies Dealing with Conservation of Wildlife

- Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL)
- Constitution of India includes forest and wildlife protection.
- World Wildlife Fund for nature (WWF)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural resources (IUCN), World Conservation Union (WCU).
- Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

- ✚ Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present generation and conserves it for the future generation.
- ✚ There are two main categories of energy sources: (i) conventional sources of energy; and (ii) non-conventional sources of energy. Conventional sources of energy may be (a) conventional non-renewable energy (Mostly fossil fuels found under the ground like coal, oil and natural gas etc.); and (b) Conventional renewable energy (firewood, cattle dung, charcoal etc.)
- ✚ The Non-Conventional Energy includes solar energy, Hydel energy, Wind Health energy, Nuclear energy, Hydrogen energy, geothermal energy, Biogas energy, Tidal energy, Bio-fuel, etc.
- ✚ The demand for energy and exploitation of the energy sources is increasing day-by-day. Energy sources are depleting fast. There is an urgent need to conserve energy; else adequate energy will not be available in future.

Test Yourself

1. State any two reasons to justify the statement that we should conserve the natural resources?
2. Give the classification of natural resources?
3. Classify the main categories of energy resources with example?