

CHAPTER 14

Natural Resources

Introduction:

Facts that Matter:

Life exists on earth due to its ambient temperature, water, food and energy from the sun.

Lithosphere:

The outer crust of the earth is called the lithosphere.

Hydrosphere:

Sum of all water bodies is called hydrosphere.

Atmosphere:

Air that covers the earth is called the atmosphere.

Biosphere:

The life-supporting zone of the earth where the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere interact and make life possible is called biosphere.

It consists of biotic components-living things and abiotic components-non- living things like air, water and soil.

Air:

It is a mixture of many gases like oxygen, nitrogen, carbon-dioxide, water vapour and other gases.

- Nitrogen is used by plants for protein synthesis.

- Oxygen sustains life used for respiration, combustion.
- Carbon dioxide used by plants for preparing food by photosynthesis.

Water vapour: provides moisture.

Atmosphere:

Acts as a protective blanket around the earth.

Maintains the temperature on the surface of earth.

Winds are caused due to uneven heating of atmosphere, these winds maintains the pressure difference and causes cold and hot air, sea and land breeze, brings rain etc.

Rain:

The clouds formed due to the evaporation of water condenses and precipitates as rain.

Water:

Various sources of water are available i.e., surface water, underground water, snow, icebergs, water vapour in the atmosphere.

Use of Water:

- Water is used for transportation.
- Sustain life.
- Used by plants and animals for life-processes. Water available for drinking should be conserved and used wisely.

Soil:

Soil is formed by a very slow process i.e., by weathering of rocks. It consists of various nutrients. Plants grow in the soil, many microbe's homes is soil.

Varieties of soil types are available

- Sandy soil
- Loamy Soil
- Clayey Soil
- Black soil
- Red soil
- Alluvial soil
- Laterite soil.

Temperature:

Temperature and light is also required for all biotic components.

Pollution:

Contamination of natural sources with unwanted substances.

- **Air Pollution:** Air contaminated with smoke, fumes, dust, pollen grain, etc.
- **Water Pollution:** Water contaminated by sewage, industrial waste, excreta, chemicals, fertilizers etc.
- **Soil Pollution:** Soil gets contaminated with fertilizers, pesticides, garbage, chemicals etc.

Bio-geo-chemical Cycles:

A constant interaction between biotic and abiotic components of the biosphere makes a system and these flow of components form a cycle called bio-geochemical cycle.

Water Cycle:

Water from various sources evaporates, condenses and again precipitates as rain, falls on the land, flows back in the sea and river is known as water cycle.

