

CHAPTER 16

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Coal and Petroleum conservation:

Coal and petroleum are fossil fuels found in earth's crust. They are non-renewable and exhaustible resources.

Coal:

Coal is combustible fossilized rock derived from a large accumulation of plant remains that is gradually compressed. Coal is used for cooking, heating, in industry and thermal power plants.

Petroleum:

Petroleum is another fossil fuel that occurs in the form of liquid oil. It has been formed in the past (about 10 to 20 crore years old) from plant and animal remains and occur in the form of mineral oil in sedimentary rocks. Petroleum is mainly used as fuel for transport, agricultural operations, generators and some industries.

Methods of conservation of Fossil fuels:

- Burning of coal causes air pollution. Thus, direct use of coal for the purpose or burning should be avoided.
Coal may be converted into liquid fuel and compressed natural gas (CNG) through coal gasification.
- Techniques should be developed to recover maximum fossil fuel that lies in deep mines and wells. Wastage during extraction and transportation should be avoided.

- Both oil wells and coal mines are prone to catch fire. Therefore, these should be well protected from fire to avoid wastage pollution and loss of life and property.
- Over-consumption of oil in automobiles should be checked. We must save oil for future use because only a few years are left for its depletion.
- Alternative sources of energy, such as hydroelectric, nuclear, solar, wind power and biogas plants should be encouraged.

Steps for conservation of energy resources:

- Save electricity, water, etc. by not using when not required.
- Use energy efficient electrical appliances to save electricity.
- Use pressure cooker for cooking food.
- Use solar cookers.
- Encourage the use of biogas as domestic fuel.
- Fuel-efficient motor vehicle should be designed to reduce consumption of petrol and diesel.

Management of natural resources is needed for the conservation of natural resources.

- There are national and international laws and acts to protect the environment.

- **Ganga Action Plan.** Multi-crore project came in 1985 to improve the quality of Ganga — Accordingly a survey was conducted and a data was collected of total coliform (a group of bacteria found in human intestine) between 1993-1994
National Award for wildlife conservation – In the memory Amrita Devi Bishnoi who lost her life in the protection of Khejri trees in Rajasthan along with 363 other people.



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