

Chapter No. 16.

• Environmental Issue •

Q. No. 1 What are the various constituents of domestic Sewage? Discuss the effects of Sewage discharge on a river?

→ The wastes generated from households - from the toilet, kitchen, laundry & other related source are termed as domestic Sewage.

- Domestic Sewage primarily contains biodegradable organic matter, which readily decomposes thanks to bacteria and other organic microorganisms, which can multiply using these organic substances as substrates & hence utilise some of the components of Sewage.
- It is possible to estimate the amount of biodegradable organic matter in Sewage water by measuring Biochemical Oxygen Demand. (BOD).
- Presence of large amounts of nutrients in waters also causes excessive growth of planktonic algae, called algal bloom which imparts a distinct colour to the water bodies.
- Algal blooms cause deterioration of the water quality & fish mortality.

Q. No-2 Discuss the causes and effects of global warming, what measures need to be taken to control global warming?

→ An increase in the average temperature of the surface of the Earth is termed global warming.

It can be caused due to the following reasons-

- Increase level of greenhouse ^{gasses} has led to considerable heating of Earth leading to global warming.

- During the past century, the temperature of Earth has increased by 0.6°C , most of it during the last three decades.

- Scientists believe this rise in temperature is leading to deleterious changes in the environment & resulting in odd climatic changes, thus leading to increased melting point of polar ice caps as well as of other places like ~~in~~ sea level Himalayan snow caps.

- Over many years this will result in a rise sea level that global warming can submerge many coastal areas.

The following are the preventive measures-

- (i) cutting down use of fossil fuel.
- (ii) Improving efficiency of energy usage.
- (iii) Reducing deforestation.
- (iv) Planting trees & slowing down the growth of human population.

(ii) Ecological diversity :-

- At the ecosystem level India for Instance with its deserts, rain, forests, mangroves, coral reefs, wetland, estuaries + alpine have a greater ecosystem diversity than a Scandinavian country like Norway.

Q. No-3 How is biodiversity important for ecosystem functioning

- ecologists believed that ecosystem that community with more species generally is stability for biological tend to be more stable than those with less species.
- High biodiversity causes the ecosystem to be more stable in productivity, hence more resistant to any disturbance, such as floods, or alien species invasions.
- Increase diversity contributes to higher productivity.
- Species richness contributes to the well being of an ecosystem.
- Rich biodiversity is not only essential for ecosystem health but imperative for the very survival of the human race on this planet.
- If an ecosystem is rich in species, each trophic level will have other food alternatives, which would increase the life

expectancy rate of entities.

Therefore biodiversity has a significant role in preserving health & ecological balance of an ecosystem.

Q. No. 4 what are Sacred groves & what is their role in Conservation?

→ Sacred groves are forest patches that are exhaltated around places of worship.

- India has 14 biosphere reserves, 90 national Parks & 448 wildlife Sanctuaries.

- India has also a history of religious and cultural traditions that emphasised protection of nature.

- In many cultures, tracts of forest were set aside & all the trees & wildlife within were venerated & given total protection.

- Such sacred groves are found in Khasi & Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya, Aravalli Hills of Rajasthan western ghat region of Karnataka & Maharashtra & Garguja, Chandg & Bastar areas of Madhya Pradesh.

Q. No. 5

Q. No. 5. Describe briefly Radioactive waste?

→ These are the waste produced when nuclear energy is generated from radioactive materials.

- The use of nuclear energy has two very serious inherent problems first is ~~acc-~~ accidental leakage & second is safe disposal of radioactive wastes.
- Radiation that is given off by nuclear waste is extremely damaging to organisms because it causes mutations at a very high rate.
- At high doses, nuclear radiation is lethal but at lower doses, it creates various disorders, the most frequent of all being cancer.
- Therefore nuclear waste is an extremely potent pollutant & has to be dealt with utmost caution.
- It has been recommended that storage of nuclear waste, after sufficient pre-treatment should be done in suitably shielded containers buried within the rocks about 50 m deep below the earth's surface.

Q. No 6. Municipal waste :-

→ Municipal solid wastes are wastes from home, office, stores, school, hospital etc. that collected & disposed by municipally.

- The municipal solid waste generally comprise paper, food waste, plastics, glass, metals, rubber, leather, textile etc.
- The burning reduces the volume of wastes ~~thought~~ although it is generally not burnt to

Completion & open dump often serve as the breeding ground rats & flies.

- Sanitary landfills were adopted as the substitute for open burning dumps.

- All waste that we generate is & can be categorised in three types.

(a) Bio degradable (b) recyclable

(c) non-biodegradable.

- It is important that all garbage generated is stored. what can be reused or recycled should be separated out our kabadiwallas & rag-pickers do a great job of separation of material for recycling.

- The biodegradable material can be put into deep pits in the ground & be left for natural breakdown.

- The need to reduce our garbage generation should be a prime goal, instead we are increasing the use of non biodegradable product.

- Hospital generate hazardous waste that contains disinfectant and other harmful chemicals & also pathogenic micro-organisms. such waste also careful treatment & disposal.

- The use of Incineration Incinerators is crucial to disposal of hospital waste.