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Std :- S.Y.B.Sc.

Year :- 2020 - 21.

Sub :- Environmental  
Science.

Project Name :- Natural  
Resources

Class  
08-09-2021

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# NATURAL RESOURCES

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- INTRODUCTION - • Natural resources can be defined as 'variety of goods and services provided by nature which are necessary for our day-to-day lives'. • Eg: Plants, animals and microbes (living or biotic part), Air, water, soil, minerals, climate and solar energy (non-living or abiotic part). • They are essential for the fulfillment of physiological, social, economical and cultural needs at the individual and community levels.

TYPES OF NATURAL RESOURCES : They are of two types of resources namely Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources.

1. Renewable resources : The resources that can be replenished rapid natural cycles are known as renewable resources. These resources are able to increase their abundance through production and utilization of simple substance. E.g: plants, (crop and forests) and animals. • Some examples of renewable resources though they do not have life cycle but can be recycled. E.g: Wood and wood-products, oils product, natural rubber, fibers (e.g. cotton, jute, animal wool, silk and synthetic fibers) and leather. • In addition to these resources, water and soil are also classified as renewable resources. • Solar energy although having a finite life is a special case. It is considered as a renewable resource in as much as a solar stocks is inexhaustible on the human scale.

2. Non renewable resources : The resources that cannot be replenished through natural processes are known as non-renewable resources. These are available in limited amounts , which cannot be increased. These resources includes fossil fuel (petrol , coal . etc.) , metal (iron , copper , gold , silver , lead , zinc etc.) , minerals and salts ( carbonates , phosphate , nitrates etc.) Once a non-renewable resource is consumed, it is gone forever .

- Non-renewable resources can further be divided into two categories . viz .

A) Recyclable and B) Non-recyclable

A) Recyclable : these are non-renewable resources which can be collected after they are used and can be recycled . These are mainly the non-mineral resources , which occurs in the earth's crust (e.g. ores of aluminum , copper , mercury etc.) and deposits of fertilizer nutrients ( e.g. Phosphate rock and potassium and minerals used in their natural state (asbestos , clay , mica etc.)

B) Non-recyclable : These are non-renewable resources , which cannot be recycled in any way . Ex: Fossil fuels and uranium , which provide 90 per cent our energy requirements .

#### NATURAL RESOURCES AND ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS :

The main problem associated with natural resources is unequal consumption . A major part of natural resources are consumed in the developed world .