

Lesson 23

Environmental Awareness

Summary –

Environment is the surrounding we live in. Unplanned human activities cause environmental degradation. Sustainable development is a concept which says that development should be environment oriented, it should be such that it does not harm natural order. Different types of pollution such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, pesticides, sewage, smoke, noise cause environmental degradation.

Environmental Degradation

Environmental degradation poses a great danger to human's own survival.

It should be realized that conservation & improvement of the environment are vital for the survival, and wellbeing of mankind.

Environmental Problem -

+ Land, Air and Water:

- Pollution of land and water has affected plants, animals, and human beings.
- The quality of soil is deteriorating resulting in the loss of agricultural land.

+ Population Growth:

Population growth means more people to eat and breathe, and putting an excessive pressure on land and forest, and ultimately disturbing the ecological balance.

+ Urbanization:

Urbanization is no less a source of pollution, and therefore a threat to the environment. Urbanization means maddening race of people from villages to the cities.

+ Industrialization:

Industrialization coupled with the development of the means of transport and communication has not only polluted the environment but also has led to the shrinking of the natural resources.

Awareness about Environmental Protection -

- ✚ The environmental issues are important because the absence of their solutions is more horrible.
- ✚ Unless environmental issues are not solved or not taken care of the coming generations may find earth worth not living.
- ✚ The need of the earth and the needs of the person have become one. There is no denying the fact that environment must be protected and conserved so to make future life possible.
- ✚ Human needs are increasing & accordingly the environment is also being altered, nature's capacity is too accommodating and regenerative yet there is a limit to nature's capacity especially when pressure of exploding population & technology keep mounting.

National & International Efforts

– Ministry of environment & forest was established for environment protection in 1986. The objective of India's National Environment policy is:

- 1) Conserve & develop safe, healthy, productive, & aesthetically satisfying environment.
- 2) Upgrade, develop and manage rural and urban settlement to enhance the quality of life.

The Concept of Sustainable Development -

- ✚ Sustainable development has been defined on meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the need of future generations.
- ✚ All developmental activities involve some amount of environmental degradation.
- ✚ The aim should be to achieve sustainable levels of people's welfare and development.
- ✚ The primary concern is how many people can ultimately be supported by environment and at what level of quality of life.
- ✚ The concept of sustainable development is more about environment and less about development, more about stability and less about change.

3) Plan development on sound ecological principles with environmental impact assessment & incorporating appropriate environmental safeguards.

4) Promote environmental safety-technologies, recycling of resources and utilization of wastes.

5) Conserve the biotic diversity in the country by creating nature reserves and sanctuaries for specific habitats such as mountains, rain forests, pastures, deserts, wetlands, lakes, beaches, mangroves, estuaries, lagoons, and island.

6) Safeguard the environment within the national maritime Exclusive Economic Zone.

7) Evolve environmental norms and establish effective mechanism for monitoring surveillance and collection and dissemination of information.

8) Preserve science landscapes, as well as historic and cultural monuments and their environs.

9) Promote environmental education at all levels and create public awareness.

10) Encourage research in environmental science and technological and social investigation to conserve and improve the environment.

11) Develop adequate manpower within the country, of ecologists,

✚ For certain industries, prior environment clearance is compulsory before they can be set up.

✚ Regarding transport pollution apart from conversation measures, population free engines are being designed, some of which have already been introduced for two & three wheelers, and some of the popular cars.

✚ National Forestry Plan is in progress, Environmental Brigades, Afforestation Brigades, and India's wildlife conservation projects have met with remarkable success.

✚ The Tiger project has been a great success.

✚ India also has an elaborate law relating to the prevention of pollution of water, soil and air and a system of environmental audit of most industrial projects.

✚ India is also engaged in serious and systematic efforts to develop alternative and renewable sources of energy like solar, wind and wave energy which are environment friendly.

✚ Emphasis is laid on solar energy on which some significant technological progress has been made.

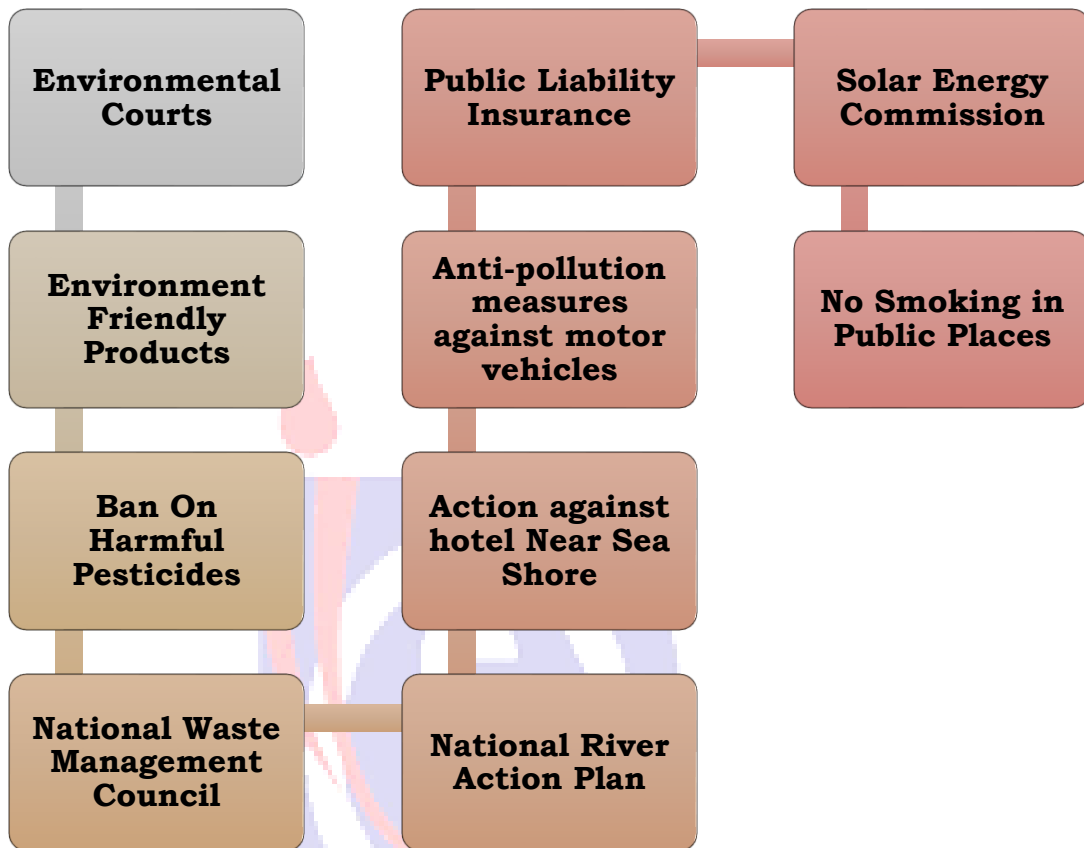
✚ India is taking all these measures partially with international assistance.

National & International Commitment to Protection of Environment -

✚ On the anvil are common effluent plants for small industries located in a cluster the big plants being looked after individually.

✚ Seventeen grossly polluting industries have been identified for environment control within a time schedule.

Measures by Indian Government to Check Environmental



Maximize your marks –

1. Write down any two environmental problems and their solutions.
2. Mention any four measures taken by the Indian government to keep check on the environment.
3. Write down the efforts and steps taken at the international level to protect the environment.