

CLASS 10TH

SUBJECT : SOCIAL SCIENCE (GEOGRAPHY)

CHAPTER -1 RESOURCES OF INDIA (I)

FOREST AND WILD LIFE – USES AND THEIR CONSERVATION

The large areas of the earth surface with dominance of trees in the form of natural vegetation are known as forests. Forests are the valuable gift of nature. They are the important natural resource. It is estimated that originally one-fourth part of the earth (25 percent) was covered by forests, but these forest coverings have been recklessly destroyed by man for agriculture, settlement and industries. Therefore, now only 15 percent area of the earth surface is covered by forests.

Natural vegetation depends on the location of an area. climate and soil. Distribution of natural vegetation is uneven because location soil conditions and climatic conditions are not same. Variety of forests are found in India due to varied climatic conditions and uneven topography.

FOLLOWING TYPES OF INDIAN FORESTS

1. Tropical Evergreen Forests
2. Monsoon Forests – (a) Wet Monsoon Forests (b) Dry Monsoon Forests
3. Dry Tropical Forests
4. Forests of delta Region
5. Himalayan Forests.

You have studied about description of these forests and wild life in the previous class.

IMPORTANCE OF FORESTO TO NATIONAL ECONOMY

Forests are national wealth. In India about 20.64 percent of total geographical area is under forests. This is 1.7% of the world's forest area. The country possesses an average of 0.11 hectare per person area under forest. Variety of unevenly distributed forests are found here. Majority of hard wood trees are found in these forests.

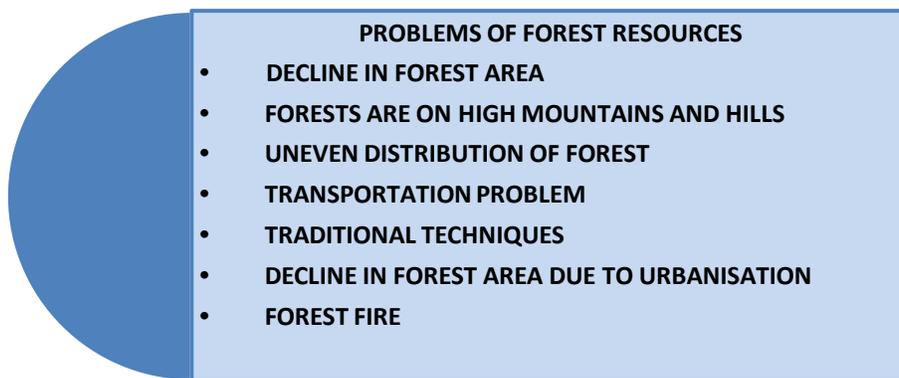
DIRECT BENEFITS FROM THE FORESTS

- **Forest provides wood** - Wood produced in the forests is an important source of fuel. Forests provide us Teak, Sal, Shisham, Pine, Abnoos, Sandle wood and Deodar. Wood is also used for making furniture.
- **Forests provide minor forest produce** – Forests provide a large number of minor produce which are essential for industries such as lac, tanning materials, gum, honey, Katha, Wax, resins, Bamboo, Medicinal herbs, horns and hides on animals etc.
- **Forests provide materials for basic industries** – Wood grass, sanowar and bamboo are useful raw material for several industries like paper, match, lac, leather, oil and herbal medicines.
- **Grazing land for Animal** – Forests provide natural pastures for grazing animals.
- **Employment** – About 7.8 crore people depend on forest for their livelihood. Many industries are based on raw materials from forests giving employment to crores of people.
- **Foreign Exchange** – Forest provide us lac, turpentine oil, sandle wood oil and artistic things made up of wood which are exported to get foreign exchange.

- **Helps in Small Scale Industries** – Small scale Industries are developed from the minor forest products like Tendupatta, Cane, Honey, Wax etc.
- **Revenue Generation** – Govt. receive crores of rupees from the forest as revenue and royalty, Presently this revenue is 670 crore rupees per annum.

INDIRECT BENEFITS FROM THE FORESTS:

- **Control soil erosion** – Trees firmly enclose and considerably reduces soil erosion. Trees hold the fertile top layer of the soil.
- **Control the climate** – Forest act as speed breakers to wind which check the velocity of hot and cold wind. The climate of forest area remains temperate.
- **Check floods** – Speed of water is reduced by the existence of forests. Water is absorbed by the trees. The force of water is reduced by the extensive forest cover.
- **Control expansion of desert areas** – Sardar Patel said- “ If expansion of deserts are to be controlled and human civilization is to be prevented then the destruction of forest wealth is to be prevented.”
- **Rain bearers** – Forests are considered as rain bearers.
- **Increases water level** – Water level in ponds, tanks, river and streams is maintained by them.
- **Increases soil fertility** – Leaves of the trees fall in the forest area, decompose and make the soil fertile.
- **Natural beauty** – Forests attract tourist, as they increase the natural beauty.



CONSERVATION OF FORESTS IN INDIA

British Government made forest policy in 1894 In India. They established forest department in every state for the protection and development of forests. There were two main objectives of this policy – Revenue collection and Conservation of forests.

1. In 1950 after Independence Central Forest Board was established. New forest policy was made. Its four main points were- 1. Forest area should be increased to 33.3 percent. 2. Forestation 3. Protection of forests 4. Forestry research.

2. The policy was revised on 7th December 1988. The main aim of the forest policy of 1988 is protection, conservation and development of forests. The Policy holds the following objectives-

- Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance.
- Conservation of natural heritage.
- Check on soil erosion and denudation in catchment areas of river, lakes and reservoirs.
- Increase in productivity of forest to meet the national needs.

- Encouragement of efficient utilization of forest produce and optimum substitution of wood.

3. In 1999, a 20 year National Forest Action programme was launched to make National Forest Policy of 1988 functional, for the development of the forests. following programmes have been launched-

- **Indian Forest Survey Organisation** – This organization was established in 1971 to find about the availability of goods produced in the forests.
- **Establishment of Wood Craft training center** – In 1965 a “Wood Craft Training Centre” was established in Dehradun to train the forest officers and employees of state forest department.
- **State Forest Development Corporations** – Cutting of forests in the states was done by contractors. To prevent this practice these Corporations were established in 19 States.
- **Indian Institute of Forest Management** – This institute is established in Ahmedabad in 1978 in collaboration with a Swedish Company. Central Government has also established Indian Institute of Forest Management in Bhopal for training research and consultancy. P.G. of doctor’s degrees are awarded here on the basis research and case study.
- **Forest Conservation Act** – In 1980 Central Government passed forest conservation act according to which forest land can not be converted into agricultural land without the permission of the Government. Government has classified forests into four categories- 1. Protected forests 2. National forests 3. Village forests 4. Tree groups.
- **Vanmahotsav** – In 1950 K.M. Munshi, the then Agriculture minister had started Vanmahotsav – “Plant more trees movement” to increase the forest area and to motivate people for plantation. Vanmahotsava is celebrated from 1st to 7th July every year in our country.
- **Social Forestry** – This programme of Plantation is started in association with World Bank. It aims to plant useful trees in waste lands, road sides and canal embankments near villages.
- **‘One tree for every child’**- This slogan is developed in schools and colleges. People’s participation is increased by publicizing Vanmahotsava and by farm forestry, by planting tree on road side, railway side and canal embankments. Cutting of green trees is prevented by the effective implementation of forest acts. Cutting trees and animal grazing is prevented in Himalayan region.
- **Forest Fire control project** – Fire is one of the major factors responsible for destruction of forests in the country. Several appropriate measures have been undertaken to reduce the incidents of fire in forests. The UNDP assisted Modern Forest Fire Control Project in Chandrapur (Maharashtra) and Haldwani and Nainital (Uttar Pradesh) is in operation in ten states of the country.

WILD LIFE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Animals and Wild life are one of the important forest resources because they provide many useful products and an important source of government revenue. Man has destroyed wild life along with forests recklessly due to which existence of wild life is in danger. Population of lion, tiger, elephants, rhinoceros etc. is decreasing. It seems that in next few years some species of animals are threatened with extinction. They have to be saved for ecological balance.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR WILD LIFE DESTRUCTION

- DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS ON LARGE SCALE
- HUNTING ANIMALS FOR VARIED REASONS
- ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION
- PEOPLE ARE NOT KIND TOWARDS ANIMALS
- RAW MATERIAL FOR INDUSTRIES
- IGNORANCE OF ANIMALS BY HUMANBEINGS

CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE

Following efforts can be made to protect the wild life :

- Safeguarding the national habitat of the wild animals.
- Hunting should be restricted.
- Establishing Biosphere Reserves in forest areas.
- Educating public for environmental protection at levels of education.
- Implementation of wild life management programmes.

QUESTIONS:

- 1.What is Social Forestry Scheme?
- 2.Describe the methods of water conservation .Why is it necessary?
- 3.Conservation of forests is necessary. Why?
- 4.Describe direct and indirect advantages of forests.
- 5.Why is wild life conservation necessary ? What are the measures of the wild life conservation?

NOTE :

SOLVE ALL EXERCISE.