

Chapter - 16

Water: A Precious Resource

- Water is essential for all living beings. There can be no life without it.
- Water exists in three forms: solid, liquid and vapour.
- **Solid:** At poles of earth, snow-covered mountains and glaciers.
- **Liquids:** In oceans, lakes, rivers and underground.
- **Gaseous:** Water vapour in air.
- **Surface water:** Sea and oceans, Rivers, Springs, Lakes and Ponds.
- **Ground water:** It is the water that seeps into the ground through soil and collects over non-porous rocks (aquifer). Level of groundwater at any place is called water table. Groundwater gets recharged by seepage of water into the ground (infiltration).
- **Water scarcity:** Depletion of water table:
 - (i) Increase population decreases open areas which decreases seepage of rainwater.
 - (ii) Increasing industries more water is drawn out from ground.
 - (iii) Agricultural activities irrigation systems fail due to erratic rainfall which results in increased used of ground water.
 - (iv) Uneven distribution of rainfall.
 - (v) Scanty rainfall.
 - (vi) Deforestation.
- Though water is maintained by the water cycle, yet there is an acute scarcity of water in many parts of the globe.
- There is an uneven distribution of water. Much of it has resulted from human activities.
- Rapid growth of industries, increasing population, growing irrigation requirements and mismanagement are some of the causes for water shortage.
- We need to be worried about the wastage during the supply of water through pipes, the leaking taps in buildings and other places.
- Unnecessary use of water and overdrawing from groundwater should be avoided. Recharge of water to the ground should be increased.
- The need of the hour is that every individual uses water economically.
- Plants wilt and ultimately dry-up if they are not watered for a few days.