

POLLUTION DUE TO URBANISATION *(14 marks)*

The intensive process of urbanisation has sharply aggravated the problem of the water supply of the towns. A considerable part of the population of the towns of the developing world, especially the inhabitants of over populated slum regions, uses the rivers and reservoirs for daily needs (for washing clothes, cleaning utensils etc). In many countries of Asia and Africa the rivers traditionally serve the place of burial. For example, the high level of the pollution of Ganga can be explained to a large degree in the

fact that about 40 thousand semi-burnt dead bodies of people and animal are cast in it every year. (The pollution of environment including of natural reservoirs is increasing sharply in the towns of the developing countries as a result of the expediting process of industrialisation. The industrial undertakings often throw wastes into the reservoirs of the towns without appropriate purification. If in the 50's the river Hoogly in the region of Calcutta was polluted only at places then, now the position has changed to the worst.

The intensive industrialisation has also told upon the "quality" of the air basin of the developing countries, especially in the major towns, where the level of pollution has frequently surpassed the maximum international norms permissible. Investigation of the pollution of the air in Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta, conducted in the 70's has shown that the concentration of dust here was twenty-five times higher than in the towns of Western Europe and the U.S.A. In Pakistan, signs of dangerous pollution of the atmosphere are being marked by the wastes to industrial undertakings, primarily in certain regions of Karachi, Hyderabad, Lahore. Pollution of the air in the towns is increasing both as a result of the growth of industrial potential as well as of the steadily increasing automobilisation. If in Calcutta, one of the towns of India suffering most from the pollution of air, about 23 per cent of the general pollution of air in all comes from transport fumes (46 per cent from industry), then in Ibadan (Nigeria) the pollution of the air is caused by not less than 90 per cent of automobilisation.

The sound pollution is another feather in the cap. At the peak hours vehicles blow horns whose sound exceeds the permissible decibel level. In many cases the vehicles are wornout and produce a jarring effect when their bodies rattle with the strange noise. Besides this, video-parlours and music shops don't stop 'singing' latest hits of film songs at any time of the day. It becomes very difficult for a person to sit in a nearby shop when such is the condition. All this tends to make the people deaf due to noise pollution. In a survey it was found that the noise in the cities of India at peak hours crossed 98 decibels which is sufficient to make a person deaf.

One can imagine the effects of urbanisation on the public health in the context of increasing number of vehicles on the roads. The frequent traffic jams in the metropolitan cities tell this pathetic story. Strangely, this situation is being seen in small towns around these metropolitan cities. It is not surprising that the cases of urban people contracting the diseases caused by the pollution are increasing day by day.

- A.3.1 According to the passage, there are many urbanisation factors which have contributed to the noise pollution. Complete the summary outline below by writing a suitable word or phrase in each space to indicate these factors. (5 marks)

URBANISATION FACTORS OF POLLUTION

- (1) _____ (a)
- 1.1 semi-burnt human and animal bodies thrown into rivers
- 1.2 _____ (b)
- (2) Air Pollution
- 2.1 by dust
- 2.2 _____ (c)
- 2.3 _____ (d)
- (3) Sound Pollution
- 3.1 honking of pressure horns
- 3.2 blaring of loudspeakers
- 3.3 _____ (e)

- A.3.2 On the basis of your reading of the passage, complete the following sentences. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

- (a) The water of Ganga has been polluted by

_____ (a)

The 'quality' of air basin of the developing countries has been much affected by

- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) The chief factor causing air pollution in Ibadan (Nigeria) is _____

The vehicular sources polluting the sound in cities are

- (e) _____
- (f) _____

3 Find word in the passage, from the lines indicated, which means the opposite of each of the following. Write correct word in each space. (3 marks)

- (a) extensive (lines 1 to 10) _____
- (b) excluding (line 5 to 15) _____
- (c) easy (lines 35 to 45) _____