**15.1 IMPORTANCE OF PLANTATION**

Take a deep breath in, now release it out. Of course everybody knows that oxygen is inhaled in and carbon dioxide is exhaled out.

* No one can deny the fact that oxygen is the most essential element for our survival and almost for all other living beings.
* Joseph Priestly discovered this gas (O2).
* But point of our reference here are “green plants and trees” which naturally manufacture oxygen as by-product by the process called “photosynthesis”.
* We can then appreciate that plants are extremely important in the lives of people throughout the world.
* People depend upon plants for other basic needs too, such as food, clothing, shelter (*i.e roti, kapra aur makan—a Manoj Kumar starrer film*) and health care, fuel, flower, fruits, vegetables, rubber, wood, and many other important goods.
* Trees conserve water.
* Preserve soil.
* Preserve climate and help in preventing global warming.
* With the increase in population all around the world the need of more and more plants is growing at a fast pace.
* Nothing but the plants and trees can play an act for sustaining life and ecosystem on earth.
* Trees serve as homes or habitat to various species of birds.
* Tree plantation helps battle deforestation.

***The ecological system of our planet is a shared responsibility of all of us. Because of urbanization, deteriorating condition of the forest and global warming, importance of plantation is emerging fast. It is therefore extremely important to motivate school children for “knowing the importance of trees” and taking part in “tree plantation” program carried out in schools or elsewhere.***