

biologically magnified as they pass through the food chains.

[C] According to the form in which they persist after being released into the environment, the pollutants may be classified as primary or secondary.

1. Primary pollutants: These persist in the form in which they are added to the environment. Plastics are primary pollutants.

2. Secondary pollution: These are formed by the interaction among the primary pollutants. *For Example*, two primary pollutants, namely, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons, from motor vehicles, react in the presence of sunlight to form secondary pollutants, viz., peroxyacyl nitrate (PAN) and ozone. These are more toxic than the primary pollutants. This phenomenon of increased toxicity by reaction among the pollutants is called **synergism**.

9. What are the causes of air (atmospheric) pollution?

There are two main causes of air pollution.

(a) Human activities: Man has been polluting the air ever since he started using fire. Industrialisation and invention of automobiles have speeded up the pollution of air. Overpopulation, deforestation, nuclear explosions and explosives used in wars, and fireworks during festivals are also contributing to air pollution.

(b) Nature:

1. Volcanic eruptions release gases and ashes which pollute the air. Pollution of air by volcanic eruptions in certain geological periods seem to have changed the earth's climate.
2. Fumes and fires release harmful gases.
3. Natural organic and inorganic decays release harmful dust and sulphurous gases.
4. Dust storms are another factor in the pollution of air.
5. Pollen, spores, cysts, bacteria and marsh gas are natural pollutants.
6. Atmospheric pollution existed even before the evolution of man. Man has only aggravated the air pollution.

10. Discuss the types of soil pollution.

Types of soil pollution: There are two types of soil pollution.

1. Positive soil pollution: Reduction in productivity of the soil due to the addition of undesirable substance (industrial wastes, pesticides, inorganic fertilizers, radioactive dust and discarded materials) is called positive soil pollution.