

Chapter 8

Infrastructure

Q. 1 Explain the term ‘infrastructure’.

Answer:

Infrastructure is a basic supported structure which is built to provide various kinds of services in an economy. It includes roads, railways, sports, airports, dams, power stations, oil and gas pipelines, telecommunication facilities, and the educational system including schools and colleges in the country, the healthcare system including hospitals, the sanitary system including the drinking water facilities and the monetary system including banks insurance and other Financial Institutions.

Q. 2 Explain the two categories into which infrastructure is divided. How are both interdependent?

Answer:

The two categories into which infrastructure can be divided are – economic infrastructure and social infrastructure.

The economic infrastructure is related to energy, transportation, and communication. It helps in economic growth. The social infrastructure is related to education, health, and housing. It enhances the quality of standard of living of people and leads to the welfare of the economy.

The economic growth attained due to perfect economic infrastructure will not be sustainable if the social infrastructure is not properly developed.

The economic and social infrastructures are complementary to each other because the economic infrastructure supports the economy from inside and the social infrastructure from outside.

Q. 3 How do infrastructure facilities boost production?

Answer:

A well-developed economic and social infrastructure facilities result in boosted production activities.

Where the economic infrastructure is well developed the facilities like transportation and communication will be well developed which will increase the availability of physical resources.

Well-developed social infrastructure will provide good work force having high productivity and those who can use the available inputs and the technology in the best possible manner.

Therefore, infrastructure is the necessary condition for higher productivity and increased production.

Q. 4 Infrastructure contributes to the economic development of a country. Do you agree? Explain.

Answer:

Infrastructure contributes towards the economic development of a country –

- By increasing the productivity of raw materials and human beings,
- By encouraging investment due to a well-developed infrastructure and chances of high returns,
- By generating various forward and backward linkages in production that is the production activities can be expanded and
- By increasing the size of market; it may even cross the national boundaries.

Q. 5 What is the state of rural infrastructure in India?

Answer:

The rural infrastructure of India is not very adequate. The status of rural infrastructure in India is stated below –

- The women in rural areas still use bio-fuels to meet their energy requirements.
- They have to travel far for the basic necessity like water.
- There is a lack of availability of clean drinking water.
- The sanitation facilities are also not properly developed.

Q. 6 What is the significance of 'energy'? Differentiate between commercial and non-commercial sources of energy.

Answer:

Energy is very important for the development process of any nation. It is essential for industrial, agriculture, and other related areas the development in which results in infrastructure development and the energy is also used for domestic purposes.

The basic differences between commercial and non-commercial sources of energy are –

Commercial energy	Non – commercial energy
1. It is available to the users for some price.	1. It is available to the users free of cost.
2. This form of energy is used for commercial purposes.	2. This form of energy is for domestic purpose.
3. Example – coal, petroleum and natural gas electricity, etc.	3. Example – firewood, agricultural waste, animal waste, etc.

Q. 7 What are the three basic sources of generating power?

Answer:

The three basic sources of generating power are –

- Water which gives hydroelectricity.

- Oil, gas and coal which gives thermal electricity.
- Radioactive elements which give atomic energy.

Q. 8 What do you mean by transmission and distribution losses? How can they be reduced?

Answer:

Transmission and distribution losses mean the losses that arise at the time of transformation of energy between the source of supply and the point of distribution.

This can be reduced by better management and use of advanced technology of transmission and distribution and by avoiding theft of power. The other methods to reduce transmission and distribution losses are –

- Having appropriate size of conductors
- Supply of power through meter
- Proper load management
- Regular energy audits and
- Privatization of the work of distribution

Q. 9 What are the various non-commercial sources of energy?

Answer:

The various non-commercial sources of energy are firewood, agricultural waste, animal waste, etc.

Q. 10 Justify that energy crisis can be overcome with the use of renewable sources of energy.

Answer:

The sources of energy are available to the users free of cost so they do not realize the importance of energy. The excessive consumption of non-

renewable sources of energy can create threat to the sustainable development of the country and may also result in energy crisis.

The demand for commercial energy is quite high with the increase in population and production; so it is getting exhausted quickly.

Whereas the renewable resources get renewed quickly and they are unlimited and as they can be regenerated so they are not affected by human activities.

So, the energy crisis can we overcome with the use of more and more renewable sources of energy than the non-renewable sources.

Q. 11 How has the consumption pattern of energy changed over the years?

Answer:

The consumption pattern of energy in India has changed over the years. The present pattern of energy consumption is –

1. The commercial energy consumption rate is 65% of the total energy consumed in India.
2. The use of non-commercial energy sources is 30% of the total energy consumption.
3. The non-commercial use of energy has increased from 36% to 76% during last 50 years.
4. The consumption of electricity in agricultural sector has increased but still the industrial sector consumes more of electricity among all sectors.

Q. 12 How are the rates of consumption of energy and economic growth connected?

Answer:

Energy is very closely related with the development process of a nation. It is essential for all the productive activities undertaken within the

economy. Even the household work requires energy. So the rate of consumption of energy is connected with the economic growth.

Q. 13 What problems are being faced by the power sector in India?

Answer:

The problems faced by power sector in India are –

1. The electricity generated is not sufficient to meet the annual economic growth.
2. There is huge loss in transmission and distribution of electricity.
3. The subsidized rate of electricity to Agricultural sector and the theft of electricity have exaggerated the problems of power sector.
4. There is scarcity of the raw materials required to generate electricity.
5. The other problems faced by the power sector are –
 - a. Underutilization of the capacity
 - b. Public unrest
 - c. Need for energy conservation
 - d. Incomplete electrification
 - e. Operational inefficiency, etc.

Q. 14 Discuss the reforms which have been initiated recently to meet the energy crisis in India.

Answer:

The reforms which have been initiated recently to meet the energy crisis in India are –

- Privatization of the power generation sector and power transmission
- Electricity for all by 2012

- Setting up regulatory mechanism to regulate tariff, and to promote efficiency and competition
- Encouraging FDI in power sector
- Accelerated power development and reform programmes for improving the financial viability, reducing transmission and distribution losses, and promoting transparency.
- Introducing various awareness programmes regarding the use of renewable resources
- Improving productivity

Q. 15 What are the main characteristics of health of the people of our country?

Answer:

The main characteristics of health of the people of India are –

- The death rate has declined to 8 per thousand in 2001
- The infant mortality rate has reduced to 7 per thousand in 2001
- The life expectancy has increased to 64 years in the year 2001
- The child mortality rate has reduced to 23% in 2001
- Various diseases like cholera, smallpox, malaria, polio, leprosy are under control.

Q. 16 What is a 'global burden of disease'?

Answer:

The 'global burden of diseases' refers to the number of people dying prematurely due to particular disease. It also includes the number of years spent by the person in the state of disability due to the disease.

Q. 17 Discuss the main drawbacks of our health care system.

Answer:

The main drawbacks of our health care system are –

- High global burden of diseases
- Poor condition of Primary Health centers
- Regional, Income and Gender bias
- Communicable diseases
- Poor healthcare provisions
- Privatization of health sector

Q. 18 How has women's health become a matter of great concern?

Answer:

The health of women has become a matter of great concern due to following reasons –

- The growing incidences of female feticide in the country
- Marriage of girls at young ages and premature conceptions
- Iron deficiency and anemia is found commonly in the married women of the age group of 15 to 49 years.
- Deaths during delivering child

Q. 19 Describe the meaning of public health. Discuss the major public health measures undertaken by the state in recent years to control diseases.

Answer:

Public health means the status of health of people of the country. The major public health measures undertaken by the state in the recent years to control diseases are –

- Creating awareness on health and hygiene system
- The role of Telecom and IT sector
- The effectiveness of healthcare programmes undertaken by the primary health care center
- Public private partnership in the healthcare sector.

