**Chapter II: Coal, petroleum and natural gas**

***Course 03 : Natural Gas***

1. **Natural gas**

**Natural gas** is a very important fossil fuel because it is easy to transport through pipes. Natural gas is stored under high pressure as compressed natural gas (CNG). CNG is used for power generation. It is now being used as a fuel for transport vehicles because it is less polluting. It is a cleaner fuel.

The great advantage of CNG is that it can be used directly for burning in homes and factories where it can be supplied through pipes. Natural gas is also used as a starting material for the manufacture of a number of chemicals and fertilisers.

1. **Some Natural Resources are Limited**

You have studied in the beginning of the chapter that some natural resources are exhaustible like fossil fuels, forests, minerals etc. You know that coal and petroleum are fossil fuels. It required the dead organisms millions of years to get converted into these fuels. On the other hand, the known reserves of these will last only a few hundred years. Moreover, burning of these fuels is a major cause of air pollution. Their use is also linked to global warming. It is therefore necessary that we use these fuels only when absolutely necessary. This will result in better environment, smaller risk of global warming and their availability for a longer period of time.

Tips to save petrol/diesel while driving are:

* drive at a constant and moderate speed as far as possible,
* switch off the engine at traffic lights or at a place where you have to wait,
* ensure correct tyre pressure.
* ensure regular maintenance of the vehicle

WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

* Coal, petroleum and natural gas are fossil fuels.
* Fossil fuels were formed from the dead remains of living organisms millions of years ago.
* Fossil fuels are exhaustible resources.
* Coke, coal tar and coal gas are the products of coal.
* Petroleum gas, petrol, diesel, kerosene, paraffin wax, lubricating oil are obtained by
* refining petroleum.
* Coal and petroleum resources are limited. W e should use them judiciously.