

CHAPTER 10

Soil Pollution

Pollution due to urbanization:

Pollution of surface soils:

Urban activities generate large quantities of city wastes including several biodegradable materials and many non – biodegradable materials.

- **Clogging of drains:** Causing serious drainage problems including the burst/leakage of drainage lines leading to health problems.
- **Barrier to movement of water:** Solid wastes have seriously damaged the normal movement of water thus creating problem of inundation, damage to foundation of buildings as well as public health hazards.
- **Foul smell:** Generated by dumping the wastes at a place.
- **Increased microbial activities:** Generate large quantities of methane beside many chemicals to pollute the soil and water flowing on its surface.
- When such solid wastes are hospital wastes they create many health problems.

Pollution of underground soil:

Underground soil in cities is likely to be polluted by

- Chemicals released by industrial wastes.
- Decomposed and partially decomposed materials of sanitary wastes.

Many dangerous chemicals like cadmium, chromium, lead, arsenic, selenium products are likely to be deposited in underground soil. Underground soil polluted by sanitary waste generates many harmful chemicals. These can damage the normal activities and ecological balance in the underground soil.

