NCERT Solutions for Class 11 English Hornbill Chapter 5 The Ailing Planet: the Green Movement's Role

Question 1.
Locate the lines in the text that support the title "The Ailing Planet".
Answer:
The lines in the text supporting the title 'The Ailing Planet' are : "The earth's vital signs reveal a patient in declining health." Thus the earth's condition is compared with an ailing patient, whose condition is deteriorating day by day. The role of the Green Movement has been summed up in the words : "We have begun to realize our ethical obligations to be good stewards of the planet and responsible trustees of the legacy to future generations."

Question 2.
What does the notice "The world's most dangerous animal" at a cage in the zoo at Lusaka, Zambia signify ?
Answer:
At a cage in the zoo at Lusaka, Zambia there is a notice which reads, 'The world's most dangerous animal'. But inside the cage there is no animal but only a mirror where you can see yourself. This notice signifies that amongst all the animals, man is the most dangerous Animals don't disturb the environmental and ecological order of the nature. But the man is doing so rapidly and mercilessly.

Question 3.
How are the earth's principal biological systems being depleted ?
Answer:
Mr Lester R Brown has pointed out in his book 'The Global Economic Prospect' that there are four principal biological systems of the earth. These are : fisheries, forests, grasslands, and croplands. They form the foundation of the global economic system. In addition to supplying our food, these four systems provide virtually all the raw material for industry except minerals and petroleum-derived synthetics.

But unfortunately, in large areas of the world, human claims on these systems are reaching an unsustainable level, a point where their productivity is being impaired. When this happens, fisheries collapse, forests disappear, grasslands are converted into barren wastelands and croplands deteriorate. In a protein-conscious and protein-hungry world, over-fishing is common every day. In poor countries, local forests are being decimated in order to procure firewood for cooking. That is why these four systems are being depleted.

Question 4.
Why does author agree that the growth of world population is one of the strongest

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factors distorting the future of human society ?
Answer:
The author has rightly stated that the growth of world population is one of the strongest factors distorting the future of human society. The world population is increasing at an alarming rate. It took mankind more than a million years to reach the first billion. That was the world population around the year 1800. By the year 19Q0, a second billion was added. But the twentieth century has added another 3.7 billion. The present world population is estimated at 5.7 billion.

With the abnormal rise in the world population the future of mankind is very badly affected. The population remains within control when incomes rise, education spreads and health improves leading to all around development. But the development itself may not be possible if the present increase in the population continues. The rich get richer and the poor remain poor for want of control of the population. The rate of unemployment increases and more and more people remain without work. It affects very badly the future of human society

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