

EXERCISE 1

For all industrial development we need power and the ultimate restriction on power is the fuel from which it is extracted. Is there enough fuel to satisfy our ever-growing hunger for power? For conventional fuels such as wood, coal, oil, the answer is quite clearly No. The world's known stock of oil is only sufficient to last sixty years at the present rate of consumption and the rate of consumption keeps going up and up. We are burning too much wood already, and the earth's known fuel-wood forests would be consumed soon. Coal is still in fair supply, but in some areas--notably England--it is becoming increasingly difficult to mine it, and therefore uneconomical.

Besides fuel as a source of power, there is the device for harnessing energy from rapidly flowing water. Few sources of water power remain untapped, and the power they yield meets only a fraction of our total need. Moreover, it is not very dependable, because water storing in reservoirs depends on rains which are sometimes freakish.

Conventional fuels release energy by combustion; but fission makes use of another kind of fuel, remarkable for its concentration of power. All fissionable material is extracted or manufactured from two elements uranium and thorium, and the world has plentiful stock of them. But even so they will not last for ever. There is proba-

bly enough to last for several centuries. Fission in the techniques known up till now converts only one-tenth of one per cent of its fuel into energy. Complete conversion of fissionable fuels into energy is known at present at laboratory level only. If it can be harnessed into a practical power device, one pound of fissionable fuel would be equivalent to three billion pounds of coal. Now the scientists' quest is to find out some more efficient process for using these fuels outside the laboratory on industrial scale. But after even fissionable material is gone, what then? There is no reason to despair. The sun is continually pouring solar energy on earth : we have only to gather and harness it. Those who think that man will one day be left without any source of power are not far-sighted enough. (362 words)

Title : Inexhaustible Sources of energy

Fuels refers to the energy sources used to power all industrial development.

Some fear that humans will one day exhaust these energy sources, while

author ^{while} argue that this fear lacks foresight. The conventional fuels have been continuously used, they will not be sufficient to meet future needs.

Additionally, although hydroelectric power from a running water is a source, its contribution is minimal.

Fissionable materials offer another potential source, which could last for centuries, but their extraction is limited to laboratory levels. Once scientist develop methods to utilize

them on an industrial scale, they could become more viable. Lastly, the

sun stands as the greatest renewable energy source waiting to be harnessed.