**WHAT IS SCIENCE?**

Science is first of all human activity. Sciences arouse out of man's efforts to survive, his natural curiosity, his search for order in the surrounding world. It arouses from man's efforts to understand nature and himself.

In science you study nature and human nature, living nature and non-living nature The fundamental aim of science is to describe the facts of nature and natural events The basis of science is the belief that natural events have natural causes. When science looks for the cause of any given natural phenomenon, it is simply looking for a set of circumstances which gave rise to the event, circumstances which themselves grew out of a still earlier set of conditions. Science makes this search by observing facts, by organizing these facts in orderly fashion.

A secondary purpose of science is the formulation, on the basis of experimental facts, of principles and theories which are the generalizations and which will lead to new studies and increased knowledge.

What distinguishes science from other activities is that it enables person to see the world “as it really is”. This may mean different things to different persons at different times. Over the ages, science has found the world to be flat at one time, round at another and more recently “egg-shaped”, to be the center of the universe and, later only a speck in the cosmos, to be made up of four fundamental substances and, later, of more than one hundred fundamental substances.

This does not mean that science is unreliable. That means that science keeps pace with the times. Every new discovery widens the horizon and increases the extent of our contact with unexplored areas.

We all know that science plays an important role in the societies in which we live. Through technology, science improves the structure of society and helps person to gain increasing control over his environment. To science we owe most of our comforts, our leisure, our health and longevity, our ability to mold environment, to communicate instantly and to move swiftly over the Earth.

Science is an occupation for people who are open-minded, who are capable of putting their beliefs to many tests. There is always room for freshness, newness, and brightness in it. The openness and freedom of science makes it the most advanced kind of thought humanity has so far developed.

**Notes to the text**

***set of circumstances*** — a number of conditions or facts, connected with an event or person, that belong together because they are similar or complementary to each other.

***to give rise to something*** — to be the cause of something, to suggest.

***in orderly fashion*** — in well-arranged order.

***to keep pace with the times*** — to progress.

***to increase the extent of our contact with unexplored areas*** — to widen and deepen the research.

***to science we owe*** — we feel grateful to science for...

***to mould the environment*** — to guide, control or influence the sur rounding world.