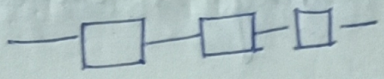
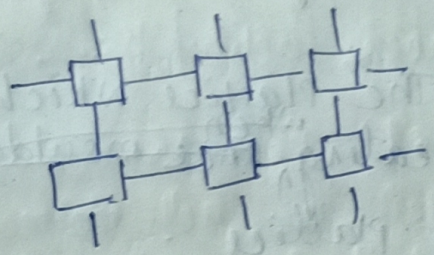
## PLASTICS :-

Plastic is a polymer like the synthetic fibre. The polymer units are arranged in two different ways to prepare different types of plastics.

In some, the units are arranged in a linear way.



In some, the units are cross-linked.



The Plastics have variety of uses because of the following reasons —

(i) Plastics are easily mouldable. (shaped into any form)

(ii) They can be recycled, reused and can be melted easily.

(iii) They can be rolled into sheets and made into wires.

(iv) They are also available in a variety of colours.

**Polythene** :- It is a type of Plastic made from a chemical ethene. It is used for making Polythene bags.

## Different types of Plastics :-

There are two different types of Plastics —

(i) Thermoplastics
(ii) Thermosetting Plastics.

**Thermoplastics** :- The plastics which can be deformed easily on heating is called thermo plastics.

eg :- polythene, PVC (Poly

**Thermosetting Plastics** :- The plastics which ~~once moulded~~ when cannot be deformed on heating, is called thermosetting plastics.

eg :- Bakelite and melamine.

* Bakelite is a poor conductor of heat and electricity. so it is used for making electrical switches, handles of various utensils.
* Melamine resists fire and tolerate heat. It is used for making floor tiles, kitchenware and fabrics which resist fire.

Plastics as Materials of choice :-

1. Plastics are non-reactive to air and water so are not corroded easily.
2. Plastics are light weight, strong and durable.
3. Plastics are poor conductors of heat and electricity. So electrical wires, switches, handles of utensils are made from plastics.

Because of the above reason plastics are widely used.

Biodegradable :- A material which gets decomposed through natural processes like by the action of bacteria is called biodegradable.

Examples :- Peels of fruits and vegetables, leftover food-stuff etc.

Non-biodegradable :- A material which is not easily decomposed by natural processes is called non-biodegradable.

Examples :- Metal cans, Plastic bags etc.

Remember

Plastics are not environment friendly.

1. If dumped in the soil leads to soil pollution.
2. If burnt, releases lots of poisonous fumes causing air pollution.

## 4R-principle

The 4R -

R - Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Recover

We should use plastics judiciously.
develop the habits of 4R principle
to save our environment.