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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

CLASS-VIII

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▶ 6. Combustion

Flame :

When there is fire, flames are usually seen. A flame is actually an exploding firecracker's burning gas. However, all burning objects do not produce a flame. Only the substances that vaporise during burning, produce flame. Thus, burning coal, smouldering wood or dung cake only glow; they do not produce a flame because they do not produce any vapour or gas. But a candle, a kerosene lamp and a gas burner produce flame because they burn a gas or vapour.

In case of a candle, the wax around the wick melts as soon as the wick is lit. The wick then draws the molten wax by capillary action, which turns into vapour due to the heat. It is the vapour that burns with a flame; the wick does not burn and only acts as a medium. Similarly, in a kerosene lamp, the wick draws kerosene from the container below by capillary action, which turns into vapour and burns with a flame. In the case of a Bunsen burner or a gas burner in the kitchen, the gas that is fed into the burner by a pipe, burns and produces the flame,