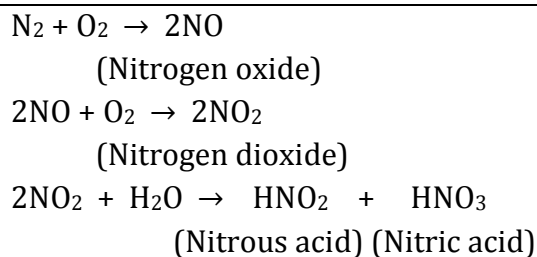


(c) Causes of acid rain

The formation of mineral acids such as carbonic acid, nitric acid and sulphuric acid is the main cause of acid rain.

Formation of nitric acid and nitrous acid

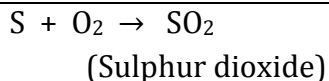
- Nitrogen and oxygen combine in the presence of thunder and lightning to form nitrogen oxide.
- Nitrogen oxide then gets oxidised in the atmosphere to form nitrogen dioxide. Nitrogen dioxide combines with water to form a mixture of nitrous acid and nitric acid.



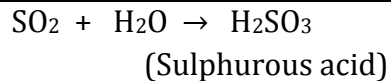
- They are also produced by internal combustion engines (automobile engines).

Formation of sulphuric acid and sulphurous acid

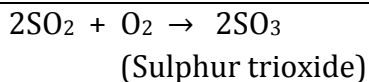
1. Impurities in coal: Coal used in power plants contains up to 4% sulphur. On combustion, it forms pollutant sulphur dioxide (i.e. oxides of sulphur).



2. Sulphur dioxide reacts with water vapour to form sulphurous acid.



3. Sulphur dioxide can also be oxidised to sulphur trioxide.



4. Sulphur trioxide reacts with water vapour to form sulphuric acid.

