

PART-B**Section-1****NATURAL DISASTER : AN INTRODUCTION**

In class IX you have studied about those disasters which occur due to human error or in other words they are human induced disasters. You have also attained sufficient knowledge about their management. But you must not remain in this illusion that only human being is responsible for disasters. The fact is that in several disasters like conditions even human beings are totally helpless. Its cause is nature. In the natural system when due to several unwanted reasons unnecessary hindrances are developed then these hindrances come before us in the form of nature- induced disasters. You will be informed about these disasters in class X.

Do You Know What Tsunami is?

When due to the earthquake that occurs on the sea floor, its waves strikes the coast in ripples then towards coast the water rises up to few meters and brings disaster to the coastal areas and this is known as Tsunami.

You also know that when the water level of the river rises above the normal and spreads in nearby areas then that condition is known as floods.

In the natural disasters floods, drought, earthquake and Tsunami etc are very destructive. Apart from these incidents such as cyclones, hailstorm, avalanche, landslides are part of natural disasters but due to large scale effect of floods, drought, earthquake and Tsunami, a study of the assessment of its causes along with its outcome and management is presented in class X.

Have you ever experienced earthquake? If not, then you must know that any vibration in earth is called earthquake and it is measured on the Richter scale.

When there is a fall of more than 25 percent from the average annual rainfall then this is considered as drought condition. Normally, in the areas which receive less than 50 C.M. rainfall there drought like condition emerges every year.

You can ask your parents or grandparents whether they have experienced any natural disaster or not. You must have seen last year (2008) in newspapers, Television how the people were devastated by the Kosi floods. The channel in which river Kosi was flowing had changed. This incident is not new for the people of Bihar. Due to this destructive nature of Kosi, the river is called the 'Sorrow of Bihar'.

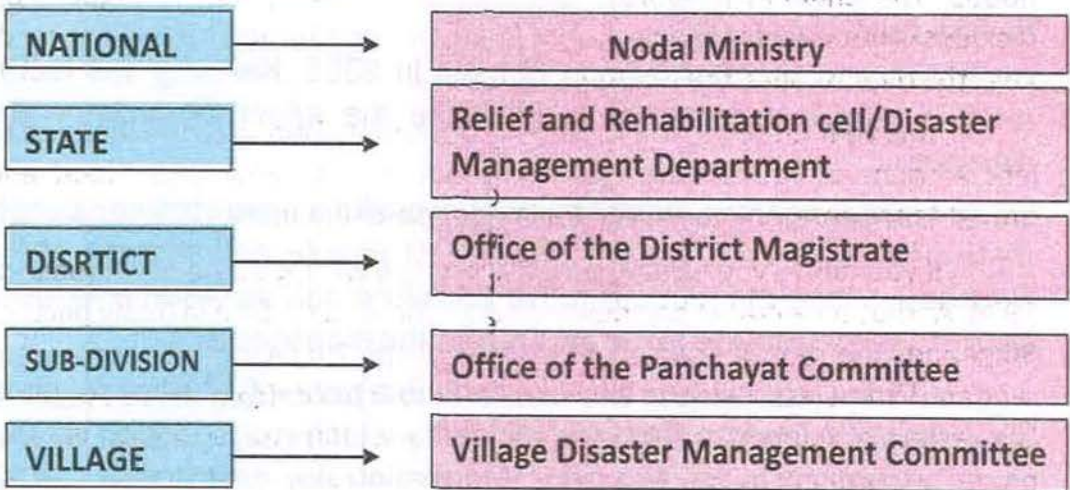
This year (2009) in many parts of the country along with Bihar due to less amount of rainfall drought like condition has emerged. Flood and droughts are permanent disaster for the people of Bihar.

If you talk to your grandparents then they will recall the earthquake of 1934. At that time cracks had developed on the land surface in many parts of Bihar and hundreds of people fell victim to death. Thousands of people were rendered homeless. Because Bihar is located far distant from the sea so there is no effect of Tsunami here but due to cyclonic effect heavy loss of life and property is brought by these cyclones almost every year.

In the mountainous region of India incidents such as landslide and soil erosion occurs frequently. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand are most effected states by such disasters. Due to continuous increase in the development work in the Himalayan region, the rocks situated on the steep slopes are weakened by such activities and when these rocks break problems like landslide emerges. The problem of avalanche occurs in very high mountainous regions. For the people living in the plains of India and particularly for the people of Bihar it is not a natural disaster but for the people living in the mountainous states it is a serious disaster.

Natural Disaster Management :

Disaster may be of any type but its management is mandatory. Disaster not only stops developmental work but also causes several hindrances in developmental work. Though at national level and at state headquarter level arrangement of disaster management has been made but failure of these arrangements can give birth to new problems.



People of north Bihar particularly of Kosi region are traditionally trained in flood control; they have adopted a life style to live in flood conditions since ancient times.

It is essential to work with the help of common people for the management of drought. With collective effort digging of wells could be done. Collective digging of Ponds and new areas of employment can be discovered.

Earthquake and Tsunami are also big challenges for India. For the management of earthquake, houses based on modern techniques are being built. In the construction of earthquake-resistant buildings in place of circular or polygonal structures, priority is being given to rectangular and square shaped building structures. Similarly, in the

coastal parts of India significant work has been done for the Tsunami warning system and its management.

Tsunami brought heavy destruction to the eastern coast and Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India in 2002. Keeping this fact in mind, strategy is essential to minimise the effect of cyclone and Tsunami.

Destructive cyclones of India - 29th December, 1999

Destructive earthquake of India - 1934

Major drought year of India - 1966

Major Tsunami of India - 26th December, 2004

No management work can be successful unless common people participate in it. With the participation of people and support of the Panchayat concrete administrative decisions can be taken and these decisions are essential in the long run for the management.

Its main objective is to make available prior information to you of the expected dangers from the incidents which may happen around you. Through forecast and prior information the destruction can be minimised. This is the main objective of this chapter.

QUESTIONS

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is not a natural disaster?
(a) Tsunami (b) Floods
(b) Terrorism (d) Earthquake
2. Which of the following is human-induced disaster?
(a) Communal riots (b) Terrorism
(c) Epidemic (d) All of the above
3. What is the main cause of Tsunami?
(a) Earthquake in sea (b) Earthquake on land
(c) Earthquake on Island (d) None of these

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

1. What do you understand by disaster?
2. How many types of disaster are there?
3. Why is management of disaster essential?

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

1. Present the difference between natural disaster and human induced disaster with suitable examples.
2. While clarifying the concept of disaster management, describe the need, compulsion of disaster management.

