



**DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

**CHAPTER: 3 ( NATURAL DISASTER)**

**VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:**

**1. What is the difference between hazard and disaster?**

**Ans.** Hazard is a situation that poses a level of threat to life, health, property or environment. A hazard becomes a disaster when it hits an area affecting the normal life.

Disasters occur when hazards meet vulnerable situations. A disaster is a natural, manmade or technological event that causes significant physical damage or destruction, widespread loss of life or drastic change to the environment. Disasters can destroy the economic, social and cultural life of people.

**2. What do you understand by a natural disaster? Enlist few.**

**Ans.** Natural disaster is an event that is caused by natural hazards and leads to loss of life and damage to physical infrastructure and environment. Examples of natural disasters are 2004 Indian ocean Tsunami, 2005 Muzaffarabad earthquake, 2005 Watalungo snow avalanche, 2010 cloud burst in Leh, landslides etc.

**3. Write down some events of earthquakes in India?**

**Ans.** Some important earthquakes in India are;

Area	Year	Magnitude
Rann of Kutch	1819	8.0
Assam	1897	8.7
Kangra	1905	8.0
Arunachal Pradesh	1950	8.5
Uttarakashi	1991	7.0
Kutch(Gujarat)	2001	7.7
Indonesia(Indian Tsunami)	2004	9.3
Sikkim	2011	6.9

**4. What is the difference between drought and famine?**

**Ans.** Drought is a condition when an area gets deficient in its water supply which may be surface water or ground water. Cracks are seen on ground in adverse conditions due to very high deficiency of water and water table also depletes further.

Famine is a widespread scarcity of food, caused by several factors including crop failure, over population or government policies. This phenomenon is usually accompanied or followed by regional malnutrition, starvation, epidemic and increased mortality.

**5. Illustrate briefly how an earthquake occurs.**

**Ans.** An earthquake is a sudden shaking of earth's surface due to release of energy in the Earth's crust. This energy is released when two parts of the tectonic plates move suddenly in relation to each other along a fault.

**LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS.****1. What do we understand by Mitigation? Give some examples.**

**Ans.** Any action taken to minimize the extent and effect of a disaster or potential disaster is known as mitigation. Mitigation can take place before, during or after a disaster, but the term is most often used to refer to action against potential disasters. Mitigation is important because it helps to reduce the impact of disasters and reduces loss of life and property. Some examples are:

- a) Training in disaster management
- b) Regulating land use
- c) Public education
- d) Raising awareness
- e) Hazard mapping.

**2. List some of the major natural disasters that are likely to occur in hilly regions. Elaborate any one of them.**

**Ans.** Some of the major natural disasters likely to occur in hilly regions are: Landslides, Avalanche, earthquake, volcanic eruption.

A landslide is a geological phenomenon which includes the movement of a mass of soil, rock or debris down slope. Landslides are caused due to heavy rainfall, snowfall or earthquakes. Landslides are mostly observed to affect hilly areas and are recurring phenomenon occurring in all parts of India, from Kerala to Himalayas. Areas prone to landslides include Eastern and



Western ghats, the Nilgiris, the Vindhyas and the Himalayas. The major consequences of landslides include: Blocking of dams, Overflowing of lakes, Disruption of vehicular movements, Risk of life and accidents, Loss of vegetation and infrastructure.

**3. What is a drought? Describe how it can be prevented?**

**Ans.** Drought is a condition when an area gets deficient in its water supply which may be surface water or ground water. Cracks are seen on ground in adverse conditions due to very high deficiency of water and water table also depletes further.

Prevention of drought:

- a) Grow more trees and save water to prevent drought.
- b) Develop irrigation facilities by building dams and indulge in rain water harvesting.
- c) Spraying water on the base of the plants so that less water is consumed.
- d) Use of drought resistant crops.
- e) Efficient water canal system management.
- f) Store water when get a good rainfall.

**4. What are the relief steps that need to be taken in the after math of landslides or snow avalanches?**

**Ans.** The relief steps that need immediately after the events are the reduction of losses( life as well as property), to rehabilitate and reconstruct quickly, to reduce hardship to the affected community and wisely reduce the adverse impacts during any future recurrence of disaster. Essentially, the relief steps comprise the following:

- a) Search and rescue
- b) Medical assistance to the injured
- c) Disposal of dead
- d) Food and water
- e) Emergency shelter for the homeless
- f) Opening up access roads if blocked; and restoration of communication channels
- g) Psychological counseling of the survivors who have lost their close relatives



h) Repair of houses and assistance to restart economic activity to restore regular work and income.

i) Reconstruction through proper planning.

**5. Describe some of the safety measures that should be adopted during an earthquake.**

**Ans.** Following are some of the measures that should be adopted during an earthquake:

i) Stay calm! If you are indoors, stay inside. If you are outside, stay outside.

ii) If you are indoors, stand against a wall near the center of the building, stand in a doorway or crawl under heavy furniture. Stay away from windows and outside doors.

iii) If you are outdoors, stay in the open away from power lines or anything that might fall. Stay away from buildings.

iv) If in an automobile, stop in a safe place available, preferably an open area.

v) Do not use elevators while coming out of a building instead use stair cases.

vi) Watch for high book cases, shelves and other things which might slide or topple.