15. NATURAL DISASTERS

1. What is a natural disaster?

Ans Natural changes such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones and tsunamis that are sudden and violent and can cause large-scale destruction of life and property are called natural disasters.

2. What does the Richter scale measure? Ans The Richter Scale measures the intensity of an earthquake.

3. What is volcanic eruption?

Ans When molten lava, ash, dust and gases come out of a volcano with force, it is called a volcanic eruption.

4. How can we protect ourselves from a tsunami?

Ans We can protect ourselves from a tsunami by moving away from the coast towards higher ground.

5. What is famine?

Ans When severe scarcity of drinking water and food leads to starvation among human beings and animals, the condition is called famine.

6. How are earthquakes caused?

Ans Sudden movements under the surface of the Earth may cause vibrations on its surface. These vibrations are known as earthquakes.

7. What safety measures would you adopt in case of a cyclone forecast?

Ans In case of a cyclone forecast, do the following:

i. Listen to the radio or watch television regularly for warning and advice.

ii. Keep enough stocks of food and fresh water.

iii. Keep a first-aid kit ready for an emergency. Also, keep a radio, torch, matchboxes and candles handy.

iv. If there is a cyclone warning, do not go into the sea. Move to a safer place, such as a cyclone shelter, if necessary.

8. How can people affected by a natural disaster be helped?

Ans The immediate steps that must be taken to reduce the suffering of people affected by a natural disaster are:

i. to look for and rescue people who are trapped in the affected building or area.

ii. to give immediate medical help to the injured.

iii. to provide relief such as dry rations, clothes, blankets, medicines, etc. to the affected people.

iv. to prevent the outbreak of epidemics.

9. What are epidemics and how are they caused?

Ans When infectious diseases, such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis, malaria and dengue fever, spread rapidly among a large number of people, it is called an epidemic. Natural disasters often lead

to collection of garbage, lack of sanitation and widespread breeding of mosquitoes. This leads to outbreak of epidemics.

10. List three ways in which you can provide rescue and support to those affected by the flood.

Ans We can provide rescue and support to flood victims in the following ways:

1. Donate money to help victims.

2. Donate clothing items, blankets and beddings.

3. Donate bottled beverages, food, medicines, soaps, etc.