**Unit 4 FORCES OF NATURE**

**Section 1 Tsunami: The Slayer of Lives**

**Reading 1**

**1.** a. i. survivors of the calamity. b. iii. an earthquake. c. ii. radioactive gas leak.

**2. Answer the following questions.**

a. The images that have used to describe the ferocity of the advancing tsunami are:

i. The violent wall of water swept away the houses, cars and ships. The high and ferocious waves also washed away large fishing boats and other vessels against overpasses. The power lines snapped as a result. The ships anchored in the ports slammed against each other.

ii. The tsunami roared over the embankments and advanced inland taking everything that came in its way and then reversed its direction; carrying with it the debris, houses, cars, etc.

b. The two minutes seemed endless because for two long minutes Japan was traumatized. The most powerful earthquake ever, hit Japan and devastated the country. In that short span of time homes and buildings were torn apart, highways were cracked open and people who had learnt to live in swaying skyscrapers were left at a loss. The two minutes spread destruction in north-eastern Japan and thousands of people were killed.

c. The fires which broke out as a result of the earthquake burned out of control. The industrial lands around Sendai port were reduced to debris and the sky was lit up by a blazing fire from an oil storage tank. Many buildings which were washed away by the powerful waves of the tsunami were also ablaze due to gas pipes that had burst open. These were the fires which burned out of control.

d. Mankind has been irritating the planet with its activities. He has been drilling pipelines inside the planet for oil and making the earth angry. There are other activities too like mining, unplanned industrialization, deforestation which have been disturbing the natural balance of the earth. As a result these natural calamities occur.

e. Three images from the text that show:

i. Man is insignificant as compared to nature are –

a. the violent wall of water swept away houses, cars and ships, a fleet of partially submerged cars bobbed in the water, waves as high as 30 feet rushed onto the shore whisking away cars and carrying blazing buildings toward factories, fields and highways.

b. Shimizu Yasuhiro had named her son, ‘Lucky’. Ten days later, the tsunami struck Japan and washed away Lucky’s home and hearth. His parents say ‘he is lucky to be alive’. On a planet smoldering under our violation of it, Lucky’s luck is measured by the fact that he is alive whereas he could have had a watery death within ten days of being born.

ii. Human activities irritate nature – man is forever drilling for oil and making the planet angry at the intrusion.

**Reading 2**

1. The survivors emerged as true heroes after this natural disaster. The naturalcalamity devastated the country but could not break the will power of its citizens. Theystayed calm even amidst chaos and slowly started rebuilding whatever they had lost. They experienced lack of clean drinking water, paucity of food, power cuts, yet there was no outbreak of panic. Shops were left open with easy access to the ATM and to food supplies but nobody looted anything. Even in the most difficult of times, the Japanese stood by one another.