

Chapter 5 Sharing Responsibilities

Role of Local and State Bodies

Question-1

Mention the Government Departments that undertake disaster management.

Solution:

The Ministry Of Home Affairs deals with disaster management at the national level. Relief Rehabilitation Department and the Department of disaster management deal with disasters at the state level.

At the district level the Office of the District Magistrate, at the block level the Office of Panchayat Samiti and at the village level the village disaster Management Committee deal with disaster management.

Question-2

What are the main functions of the District Disaster Management Committee?

Solution:

The District Disaster Management Committee prepares the District Disaster Management Plan for the State Administration. The committee trains members of the Disaster Management Team in rescue and relief operations. The Committee carries out mock rescue drills as a preparation for disaster management.

Question-3

Write about disaster Management at the Village level.

Solution:

The village Disaster management committee is headed by the Village Sarpanch or the village headman. He prepares the Village Disaster Management Plan and coordinates with the various agencies during a disaster.

Question-4

Write about Disaster Management at the District level

Solution:

Government plans for disaster management are implemented by the District Administration.

The actual ground work for relief is the responsibility of the District Magistrate, the District Collector and the Deputy Commissioner. They coordinate and supervise the relief work. The District Disaster Management Committee is headed by the District Magistrate. Officers from the Health; Irrigation; Veterinary; Police; Fire Services and the Water and Sanitation departments are members of this committee.

The District Disaster Management Committee takes decisions on the relief measure and these decisions are carried out by the Disaster Management Team. Trained personnel from all the departments carry out the relief measures.

Question-5

Write a brief note on the United Nations Disaster Management Team – India.

Solution:

The United Nations Disaster Management Team represents various UN agencies to implement preparedness and mitigation efforts and to strengthen the government's capacities on disaster management.

The UN General Assembly has appointed the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to look into all International disaster responses. The UNDMT- India has representations from various UN agencies like the FAO; ILO; UNICEF and WHO. When ever there is a disaster all these agencies act together. The primary purpose of the UNDMT- India, is to ensure prompt, effective services during a disaster.

Question-6

What is the role of the Armed forces during a disaster?

Solution:

The Indian Armed Forces is the main entity the Government depends on during disasters. The Armed Forces enter the scene only when the local administration is not able to handle the situation.

The Armed Forces have always played a major role in emergency support functions like communications, search and rescue operations, health and medical facilities, transportation, power, food and civil supplies, public works and engineering.

The Armed Forces are very effective in disaster management and function with great speed and accuracy as they have tremendous capacity and resources at their disposal.

Question-7

Write a brief note on the National Service Scheme, the Nehru Yuva Kendras and the home guards.

Solution:

The National Service Scheme involves students in the service of the Nation.

The Ministry of Education started the NSS during the academic year 1969-'70.

The motto of the NSS is "Not me but you". The motto underlines the fact that the welfare of the individual depends on the welfare of the society as a whole.

The activities of the NSS are.....

Regular activities undertaken during school working days
Special Camping activities for 10 days in any adopted village or urban slum

Each NSS unit is expected to adopt some underdeveloped area in the vicinity and work for its all round development.

Nehru Yuva Kendras

The Nehru Yuva Kendras were started in the year 1972. The objective for starting these Kendras was to include the non-student rural youth in nation building activities. This helps the rural youth to develop themselves. The members of these Kendras have helped the community in times of crisis.

Home Guards

Home Guards is a voluntary organisation. The functions of a home guard are....

Help the police in maintenance of internal security
Help the community during natural or man made disasters
Help in the maintenance of essential services
Help in the promotion of communal harmony
Help in protecting the weaker sections of the community
Participate in socio-economic and welfare activities
Perform civil defence services.

Question-8

Mention 2 duties of home guards.

Solution:

'Home Guards' is a voluntary organisation. Their duties are to help the police in maintenance of internal security and to help the community during natural or man made disasters.

Question-9

What is the main function of the District Disaster Management Committee?

Solution:

The District Disaster Management Committee prepares the District Disaster Management Plan for the State Administration.

Question-10

Who heads the Village Disaster Management Committee?

Solution:

The village Disaster management committee is headed by the Village Sarpanch or the village headman.

Question-11

Name a few Disaster Management Organisations in India.

Solution:

The United Nations Disaster Management Team – India and National Cadet Corps are Disaster Management Organisations in India.

Question-12

When does the Indian Armed Forces help in Disaster Management?

Solution:

The Armed Forces enter the scene only when the local administration is not able to handle the situation.

Question-13

When was the National Cadet Corps formed?

Solution:

The National Cadet Corps was formed in the year 1948

Question-14

What are the activities of the National Cadet Corps?

Solution:

The activities of the NSS are

Regular activities undertaken during school working days

Special Camping activities for 10 days in any adopted village or urban slum

Question-15

Who is responsible for Disaster Management at the state level?

Solution:

At the State level, disaster management is the responsibility of the Chief Minister or the Chief Secretary of the State. All decisions on relief operations are taken by them.

Question-16

What is a community contingency plan?

Solution:

A community contingency plan is a list of activities that a group of people in a community agree to follow in case of a disaster.

Question-17

List 3 items that a rescue map should include.

Solution:

A rescue map should have information about availability of skilled people, rescue resources and location of safe sites for evacuation.