

# Natural Calamities

In India, we have various kinds of natural disasters take place. The followings are the common natural disasters, which occur very often at different parts of the country.

## **Droughts**

Drought is perhaps the manifestation of desertification, which may be because of unprecedented soil erosion, large scale deforestation and abrupt change in micro-climate thereby increasing the temperature and reducing rainfall etc., ultimately leads to fall of groundwater level and hence, loss of agricultural productivity of the land, due to lack of water resources. Since, Indian Agriculture is mostly rain-fed, the occurrences of Droughts are common at the different parts of the country.

## **Floods**

When it rains heavily in the catchments of rivers and there is no dam, especially during monsoon, the rivers flood. Like drought, occurrence of flood is also quite common in the various parts of the country.

## **Earthquakes**

The geological strata of the country belong to Gondwana land-mass; which is comparatively new, younger and unstable geological formation. There are still many parts of the country under earthquakes-prone-regions. If history would be referred, there are many severe earthquakes had shacked the backbone of the country; the recent one is being the earthquake of Bhuj at the state of Gujarat. The great Himalayan Mountain range, which belong to comparatively the younger geological formations, which is still undergoing morphological changes, the construction of Tehri Dam, therefore, is a great-threat to the Garhwal region of the Himalayas.

## **Cyclone**

Due to low pressure in the atmosphere and frequent formation of whirls; cyclones take place frequently at the eastern coast of India. In the Bay of Bengal of Indian Ocean, these Low- pressure Whirls are formed and gets transmitted to the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The recent super-cyclone at Orissa in October, 1999 took away the life of more than 25,000 people, destroyed the properties of more than thousands billion dollars and more than a million of people rendered jobless. Their livelihood security of the common mass was also got severely threatened.

## **Hot waves**

In recent days, India has got highly affected by a new form of natural calamities i.e flowing of hot waves again in the east coast, killing the thousands of people in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country like, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. The flow of hot waves is also known as 'Sun-stroke,' which in fact, is common in our country. In Orissa, alone about 151 people died of " Sun-stock " in 1999. The worst sufferers are physically weaker persons, Old men and women and the children.

## **Cold Waves**

The incidents of death due to cold waves occurs in higher and lesser Himalayas especially in the States of Uttranchal, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Northern Parts of West Bengal including Darjiling.

In addition, there are also other natural calamities such as Tornado, Spiral tide Whirls etc, which occur very often in our country.

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