

(f) require any department of the Government of the State or any other body or authority or person in charge of any relevant resources to make available the resources for the purposes of emergency response, rescue and relief;

(g) require experts and consultants in the field of disasters to provide advice and assistance for rescue and relief;

(h) procure exclusive or preferential use of amenities from any authority or person as and when required;

(i) construct temporary bridges or other necessary structures and demolish unsafe structures which may be hazardous to public;

(j) ensure that non-governmental organisations carry out their activities in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner;

(k) disseminate information to public to deal with any threatening disaster situation or disaster;

(l) take such steps as the Central Government or the State Government may direct in this regard or take such other steps as are required or warranted by the form of any threatening disaster situation or disaster.

CHAPTER IV

DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

25. (1) Every State Government shall, as soon as may be after issue of notification under sub-section (1) of section 14, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish a District Disaster Management Authority for every district in the State with such name as may be specified in that notification.

Constitution of District Disaster Management Authority.

(2) The District Authority shall consist of the Chairperson and such number of other members, not exceeding seven, as may be prescribed by the State Government, and unless the rules otherwise provide, it shall consist of the following, namely:—

(a) the Collector or District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner, as the case may be, of the district who shall be Chairperson, *ex officio*;

(b) the elected representative of the local authority who shall be the co-Chairperson, *ex officio*;

Provided that in the Tribal Areas, as referred to in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, the Chief Executive Member of the district council of autonomous district, shall be the co-Chairperson, *ex officio*;

(c) the Chief Executive Officer of the District Authority, *ex officio*;

(d) the Superintendent of Police, *ex officio*;

(e) the Chief Medical Officer of the district, *ex officio*;

(f) not exceeding two other district level officers, to be appointed by the State Government.

(3) In any district where zila parishad exists, the Chairperson thereof shall be the co-Chairperson of the District Authority.

(4) The State Government shall appoint an officer not below the rank of Additional Collector or Additional District Magistrate or Additional Deputy Commissioner, as the case may be, of the district to be the Chief Executive Officer of the District Authority to exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be prescribed by the State Government and such other powers and functions as may be delegated to him by the District Authority.

26. (1) The Chairperson of the District Authority shall, in addition to presiding over the meetings of the District Authority, exercise and discharge such powers and functions of the District Authority as the District Authority may delegate to him.

Powers of Chairperson of District Authority.

(2) The Chairperson of the District Authority shall, in the case of an emergency, have power to exercise all or any of the powers of the District Authority but the exercise of such powers shall be subject to *ex post facto* ratification of the District Authority.

(3) The District Authority or the Chairperson of the District Authority may, by general or special order, in writing, delegate such of its or his powers and functions, under sub-section (1) or (2), as the case may be, to the Chief Executive Officer of the District Authority, subject to such conditions and limitations, if any, as it or he deems fit.

Meetings.

27. The District Authority shall meet as and when necessary and at such time and place as the Chairperson may think fit.

Constitution of advisory committees and other committees.

28. (1) The District Authority may, as and when it considers necessary, constitute one or more advisory committees and other committees for the efficient discharge of its functions.

(2) The District Authority shall, from amongst its members, appoint the Chairperson of the Committee referred to in sub-section (1).

(3) Any person associated as an expert with any committee or sub-committee constituted under sub-section (1) may be paid such allowances as may be prescribed by the State Government.

Appointment of officers and other employees of District Authority.

29. The State Government shall provide the District Authority with such officers, consultants and other employees as it considers necessary for carrying out the functions of District Authority.

Powers and functions of District Authority.

30. (1) The District Authority shall act as the district planning, coordinating and implementing body for disaster management and take all measures for the purposes of disaster management in the district in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the National Authority and the State Authority.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1), the District Authority may—

(i) prepare a disaster management plan including district response plan for the district;

(ii) coordinate and monitor the implementation of the National Policy, State Policy, National Plan, State Plan and District Plan;

(iii) ensure that the areas in the district vulnerable to disasters are identified and measures for the prevention of disasters and the mitigation of its effects are undertaken by the departments of the Government at the district level as well as by the local authorities;

(iv) ensure that the guidelines for prevention of disasters, mitigation of its effects, preparedness and response measures as laid down by the National Authority and the State Authority are followed by all departments of the Government at the district level and the local authorities in the district;

(v) give directions to different authorities at the district level and local authorities to take such other measures for the prevention or mitigation of disasters as may be necessary;

(vi) lay down guidelines for prevention of disaster management plans by the department of the Government at the districts level and local authorities in the district;

(vii) monitor the implementation of disaster management plans prepared by the Departments of the Government at the district level;