SECTION – I

1) Describe the administrative mechanism for disaster response at state level.

Ans: Administrative mechanism for response at state level is given below

State Relief
Commissioner Most of the states have Relief Commissioners, who are in charge of the relief measures. In others, the Chief Secretary or an officer nominated by him is in charge of the response activities. He heads the Disaster Management Committee and takes all the measures for setting up of the Control Room in case of disasters. He is the link between the Centre and the District Coordination Committee. The communication lines are along the lines shown below:

2) Examine the role of major stake holders in activation of emergency preparedness plans.

Ans: State Crisis Management Group (SCMG) The SCMG functions under the chairmanship of the Relief Commissioner/Chief Secretary and consists of Senior Officers from the Ministries/Departments of Revenue, Home, Civil Supplies, Power Irrigation, Water Supply, Panchayat, Agriculture, Forests, Rural Development, Health, Planning, Public Works, and Finance. Some other officials, like local army commando, may be co-opted if the Relief Commissioner/Chief Secretary deems it appropriate for effective response. The Group adheres to the instructions and guidance received from time to time from the Government of India and formulates Action Plans for dealing with different calamities. The responsibility of approving the district level response plans has also been vested in this Group.

State Level Control Room
An Emergency Operation Centre (Control Room) is established by the Relief Commissioner of the state as soon as the news about a disaster or impending disaster is received. The Action Plan is usually on the lines of the Central Plan. However, given the area-specific vulnerabilities, each state incorporates those features which may make response appropriate. The control room gathers all the necessary information from the designated officials and keeps updated information about the Air Force, Navy and the Army for quick interaction and response.

The responsibilities of the Control Room are:
(i) to transmit the information about the developments as a result of natural disaster to the Relief Commissioner on a continuous basis till the situation improves;
(ii) to receive instructions and communicate them to the appropriate agencies for immediate action; (iii) to collect and submit information relating to implementation of relief measures to the Central Relief Commissioner; and
(iv) to keep the state level authorities apprised of the developments on a continuing basis.

Financial Resources
As mentioned above, states contribute to CRF, which is available to them in the event of any disaster striking it. Besides that, there are two more resources. The Chief Minister’s Relief Fund has been set up on the pattern of Prime Minister Relief Fund. This fund becomes handy to provide immediate relief to the victims of disasters. Besides that, the concerned state government sanctions expenditure to meet relief expenditure from within its resources, which include its share of various developmental and employment generation programmes.

3) Discuss the various types of damage assessment.

Ans: In order to perform effective damage assessment, one must know various types of damages that are required to be taken into consideration. Among others, the important ones are mentioned below:

Damage to Buildings
The damage caused to buildings by the various disasters may be categorised as loss under the following heads:
- The loss of the main building
- The loss due to failure of other components whose damage is attributed to the main building damage
- Area covered by the collapsed structure