

Disaster Management Act, 2012

(Act No. 34 of 2012)

Contents

Chapter I

Preamble

Sections

1. Short title and commencement
2. Definition
3. An Act to override other laws

Chapter II

Organizational structure of disaster management

4. National disaster management council
5. Meeting of the Council
6. Responsibilities and functions of the Council
7. Establishment of Department
8. Head office of the Department, etc.
9. Responsibilities and functions of the Department
10. Director General
11. Appointment of officers and employees
12. Establishment of National Disaster Management Research and Training Institute
13. Constitution of National Disaster Volunteers Organization
14. National Disaster Response Co-Ordination Group
15. Meeting of National Disaster Response Co-Ordination Group
16. Responsibilities and functions of National Disaster Response Co-Ordination Group
17. Disaster Management Committee, etc. of national level
18. Local Level Disaster Management Committee and Group
19. Making National Disaster Management Policy

20. Making National and Local Disaster Management Plan
21. Duties and responsibilities and duties of different Ministry, Divisions and Organizations

Chapter III

Declaration of disaster zone, participation of different forces etc.

22. Declaration of distress zone
23. Special functions to be performed in relation to affected zone
24. Power delegated to implement the special duties in respect of affected zone
25. Involving private organizations and persons in activities relating to affected zone management
26. Requisition
27. Assistance for the person affected and vulnerable by the disaster
28. Imperatives about information on disaster situation
29. Complaint about irregularity, negligence or mismanagement, appeal, etc.
30. Participation of Armed Forces in emergency response activities
31. Participation of law enforcement agencies in emergency response activities

Chapter IV

Disaster Management Fund, Relief Fund, etc.

32. Formation Disaster Management Fund, Relief Treasury
33. Emergency purchase to response in disaster
34. Directions for mass media and broadcasting centre
35. Emergency imperatives for disaster management

Chapter V

Offences, Penalties etc.

36. Punishment for obstruction or attempt to obstruct in performing duty
37. Punishment for disobedience or failure to comply with directions
38. Punishment for presenting claim which is false, untrue or has no ground
39. Punishment for misuse or use for personal interest of resources
40. Punishment for price hiking of essential commodities in affected zone
41. Punishment for creating salinity, flood or obstruction to water flow or causing

damage to embankment etc.

42. Punishment for contravention of order under section 34 by mass media and broadcasting centres
43. Punishment for contravention of emergency directions on disaster management
44. Failure to perform the duty by Government officers and employees
45. Taking cognizance of offences
46. Offence non-cognizable, bailable and non-compoundable
47. Application of the Act V of 1898
48. Application of the Act LIX of 2009
49. Claim for compensation for disaster created by man
50. Evidentiary value of recorded photo and recorded conversation by camera
51. Offence committed by companies

Chapter VI

Miscellaneous

52. Giving award, honour and allowances etc.
53. Power to make International and Regional Treaty
54. Saving actions done in good faith
55. Application of Standing Orders relating to disaster, etc.
56. Power of Government in removing difficulties
57. Responsibility of Government for effective implementation of the Act
58. Power to make rules
59. Publication of text translated in English
60. Repeal, transformation, savings etc. of the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation and Disaster Management Bureau

Schedule

Disaster Management Act, 2012

(Act No. 34 of 2012)

[24 September, 2012]

An Act to make the activities relating to disaster management coordinated, object oriented and strong, and to make provisions to build up effective infrastructure of disaster management to fight all types of disasters

Whereas it is expedient and necessary to make provisions to mitigate the overall disaster, conduct post disaster rescue and rehabilitation programme with efficiency to provide emergency humanitarian aid to the affected people by bringing the harmful effects of the disaster to bearable extent through adopting risk reduction programmes and to make the activities of the public and private organisations relating to disaster management coordinated, object oriented and strong and build up an effective infrastructure of disaster management to fight all types of disasters;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Chapter I

Preamble

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Disaster Management Act, 2012.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Definition.- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(1) “**department**” means the Department of Disaster Management mentioned in section 7;

(2) “**hazard**” means any unusual incident which is caused naturally, by technical errors or created by man and which results in endangering and threatening the normal life of people and creating sorrows and sufferings, including devastating and irreparable loss to the necessary ingredients of livelihood;

(3) “**committee**” means the committee constituted under section 14, 17 and 18 and includes, as the case may be, any group, committee, board, platform or taskforce;

(4) “**Council**” means the ‘National Disaster Management Council’ constituted under section 4;

(5) “**climate change**” means global weather change which occurs as a result of long lasting change of physical elements of the atmosphere of any place on the earth within the process of absorption and radiation of sunlight naturally or due to the direct or indirect obstruction of the above mentioned natural process by humans;

(6) “**vessel**” means machine or human operated ship, boat, tug boat, ferry, launch, speedboat, fishing boat and any such vehicle that moves upon water carrying passengers or goods or for any other purpose;

- (7) “**risk**” means hazards, factors of growing dangers and possible harmful situation created by internal process or coalescence and capability of the environment;
- (8) “**schedule**” means schedules of this Act;
- (9) “**relief**” means food, blanket and warm cloths including other essential cloths, shelter, medicines, essential materials for new borne baby and infants, fresh drinking water, money, fuel, seeds, agricultural materials, cattle, fries, corrugated tin or house building materials and any other assistance to fight disaster granted by Government and private efforts for common people;
- (10) “**affected zone**” means affected zone declared under section 22;
- (11) “**disaster**” means any incident mentioned below caused by nature or human or created due to climate change the massiveness and devastation of which causes such damage to life, livelihood, normal life, property, assets and the environment, including cattle, birds and fishes of the affected area or creates such level of sufferings to the community of such area, in fighting against of which their own resources, capability and efficiency is not sufficient and relief and any kind of assistance is needed to tackle that situation, namely:—
- (a) cyclone, northwester, tornado, sea high tides, abnormal tides, earthquake, tsunami, excessive rainfall, shortage of rainfall, flood, erosion of river, erosion of coastal area, drought, excessive salinity, excessive pollution of arsenic, building slide, landslide, hill slide, gushing water from hills, hailstorm, heat wave, cold wave, long term water logging etc;
 - (b) explosion, fire, ship sinking, massive train and road accident, chemical and nuclear radiation, leakage of oil or gas, or any incident which may cause mass destruction;
 - (c) disease causing pandemic, such as pandemic influenza, bird flu, anthrax, diarrhoea, cholera, etc.;
 - (d) infection by bio based or biological infectious object including harmful microorganisms, poisonous materials and infection of life active objects;
 - (e) ineffectiveness or damage of essential service or disaster preventive infrastructure; and
 - (f) any unnatural incident or act of God causing massive loss of life and damage;
- (12) “**Standing Orders on Disaster**” means the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) made by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management;
- (13) “**Disaster Management**” means procedural institutional structure and programme to reduce the risk of disaster and response immediately after a disaster, through which the following steps or programme are taken to tackle disaster, namely:—
- (a) to determine of imminence of danger, amplitude, scale and time of disaster;
 - (b) to manage as well as adoption of plans, coordination and implementation;

- (c) to provide and disseminate early warnings, cautions, signals of danger or extreme danger and transfer lives and properties to secure place;
 - (d) to conduct search and rescue operation after disaster, estimate the loss of lives and damage of properties and determination of essentials, distribution of relief under humanitarian aid programme, manage rehabilitation and reconstruction and take initiatives for ensuring essential services, restoration and development; and
 - (e) to conduct other relevant programmes;
- (14) “**Disaster Management Plans**” means the National Disaster Management Plan or Local Disaster Management Plan made, as the case may be, under section 20;
- (15) “**rehabilitation**” means—
- (a) to restore any infrastructure damaged by disaster or put in a better condition;
 - (b) to restore the normal life, livelihood and working environment in the affected area through developing organizational capacity as well as ensuring the psychological, economic and physical welfare of affected community;
 - (c) to transfer the affected people to another place, if necessary, to bring their normal life back;
 - (d) to manage the better treatment for affected cattle, fishes etc., and if applicable, restore the concerned farms back to the previous condition;
 - (e) to take immediate steps to remove the dead body, cattle, fish, etc. from ponds, river, canals, marsh and water bodies and to arrange pure and safe drinking water for humans and cattle as well as purify the water for them;
 - (f) to take necessary measures to remove poisonous objects from the affected area for cleaning the poisonous microbes and garbage, as well as to deal with the situation grown;
- (16) “**preparation**” means the steps taken to develop the knowledge and idea about the risky situation to increase awareness and capability among the community to deal with the effect of the probable hazards and to conduct programmes to reduce the damage of predicted disasters, post disaster search, rescue and humanitarian aid programmes;
- (17) “**rules**” means the rules made under this Act;
- (18) “**vulnerability**” means any such existing socio-economic, geographical and environmental condition of any community which makes the expected capability of the community to adapt to the effect of natural or human made hazards or any adverse reaction vulnerable, weak, unskilled and limited;
- (19) “**person**” shall also include, where applicable, any company, association and organization;
- (20) “**Armed Forces**” means Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force;

(21) “**response**” means activities taken to protect life and property before an imminent disaster, during a disaster and immediately after a disaster to meet the fundamental necessity or essential services of the affected community;

(22) “**services**” means shelter, foods, fresh drinking water, cloths to wear, treatment, electricity and gas supply, telecommunication, sewerage, services relating to energy and transport, fire extinguishing, security, search, rescue operation provided by any organization, institution or individual to accomplish disaster management activities and services provided by police including other services specified by the Government.

3. An Act to override other laws.- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force.

Chapter II

Organizational structure of disaster management

4. National disaster management council.- (1) There shall be a council named National Disaster Management Council to give directions and guidelines to the concerned authority to make policies and plans on disaster management and other related issues for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Council shall consist of the following members, namely:-

- (1) The Prime Minister, who shall also be the Chairman;
- (2) Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives;
- (3) Minister, Ministry of Agriculture;
- (4) Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- (5) Minister, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges;
- (6) Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;
- (7) Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management;
- (8) Minister, Ministry of Water Resources;
- (9) Minister, Ministry of Shipping;
- (10) Minister, Ministry of Housing and Public Works;
- (11) Cabinet Secretary, who shall also be the member secretary;
- (12) Army Chief;
- (13) Navy Chief;
- (14) Air Force Chief;
- (15) Principal Secretary, Prime Minister’s Office;

- (16) Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division;
- (17) Secretary, Finance Division;
- (18) Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture;
- (19) Secretary, Local Government Division;
- (20) Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Ministry;
- (21) Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- (22) Secretary, Ministry of Defence;
- (23) Inspector General of Police, Bangladesh Police;
- (24) Secretary, Ministry of Education;
- (25) Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education;
- (26) Secretary, Road Division;
- (27) Secretary, Railway Division;
- (28) Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources;
- (29) Secretary, Ministry of Shipping;
- (30) Secretary, Ministry of Information;
- (31) Secretary, Bridge Division;
- (32) Secretary, Disaster Management and Relief Division;
- (33) Secretary, Food Division;
- (34) Secretary, of Ministry Land;
- (35) Secretary Ministry of Housing and Public Works Ministry;
- (36) Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Resources;
- (37) Director General, Border Guard Bangladesh;
- (38) Director General, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB);
- (39) Director General, Department of Ansar & VDP;
- (40) Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard;
- (41) Chairman, National Disaster Management Advisory Committee;

(3) If there is no minister in charge of any Ministry or Division as mentioned in Clause (2), the Minister of State or Deputy Minister, as the case may be, in charge of such Ministry or Division, if any, shall be a member of the council.

(4) The Council, if necessary, may co-opt any other person as a member of the Council.

(5) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, decrease or increase the number of the members of the council.

5. Meeting of the Council.- (1) Subject to other provisions of this section, the council may determine the procedure of its meetings.

(2) Meetings of the council shall be held at such times and places as may be determined by the chairman.

(3) At least one meeting of the council shall be held in each year.

(4) All meetings of the Council shall be presided over by the Chairman.

(5) In the absence of the Chairman, any other member nominated by him may preside over the meeting.

(6) Quorum of the meeting shall be in the presence of at least two-third members.

(7) Decisions of the meeting of the council shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting, and in case of equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(8) No act or proceeding of the Council shall be invalid merely on the ground of any existence of a vacancy in, or defect in the constitution of, the Council.

6. Responsibilities and functions of the Council.- (1) The following shall be the responsibilities and functions of the Council, namely:-

- (a) to provide strategic guidelines concerning plans and policies about disaster management;
- (b) to provide necessary guidelines to all concerned persons regarding the method of implementation of laws, policies and plans on disaster management;
- (c) to review method of existing disaster risk reduction and emergency response programmes and provide strategic guidelines for correction, revision or alteration after evaluation;
- (d) to evaluate disaster preparedness programmes and provide strategic consultancy to the concerned authority, committee and persons in this regard;
- (e) to provide strategic guidelines to the concerned authority, committee and persons for the development of post-disaster response and rescue operations and the methods and process of them;
- (f) to review the progress of implementation of the Government projects and programmes taken for the purpose of tackling the disaster and rehabilitation;
- (g) to provide necessary directives or consultation to the concerned authority and persons to arrange seminars, workshops etc. to increase awareness about all the issues, activities, directives, programmes, laws, rules, policies, etc. related to disaster; and
- (h) to take other relevant measures carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Disaster Management and Relief Division shall perform the secretarial responsibility of the council while conducting the activities of the Council and shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the Council.

7. Establishment of Department.- (1) There shall be a Department to be called “Department of Disaster Management” for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) On the commencement of this Act, the existing Relief and Rehabilitation Division under Disaster Management and Relief Department shall be altered into Department of Disaster Management for carrying out the purposes of sub-section (1).

8. Head office of the Department, etc.- (1) The Head Office of the Department shall be at Dhaka.

(2) The Government, if necessary, may set up a subordinate or branch office of the Department at any place outside Dhaka.

9. Responsibilities and functions of the Department.- For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the following shall be the responsibilities and functions of the Department, namely:—

- (a) to reduce the overall effect of disaster by bringing the adverse effects of different types of disasters to a tolerable level through conducting disaster risk-reduction programmes;
- (b) to conduct efficiently the emergency humanitarian aid, rescue and rehabilitation programmes for the community affected and distressed by the disaster;
- (c) to make the programmes of the Government and non-Government organizations regarding disaster risk-reduction and emergency response programmes coordinated, object-oriented and strong;
- (d) to implement the directions, recommendations etc. issued by the Government on disaster management;
- (e) to implement the National Disaster Management Policy and National Disaster Management plans;
- (f) to undertake other programmes which are considered to be expedient and necessary to build up an effective disaster management structure to tackle all kinds of disasters.

10. Director General.- (1) There shall be a Director General of the Department, who shall be the Chief Executive of the Department.

(2) Director General shall be appointed by the Government and the terms of his service shall be determined by the Government.

(3) Director General shall-

- (a) conduct all administrative and financial activities of the Department;

- (b) supervise of all officers and employees of the Department and, and provide guidelines to them;
- (c)) subject to the provisions of this Act, perform such functions , exercise such powers and carry out such responsibilities as may be directed by the Government and Council from time to time, if any;
- (d) take measures on the basis of letter, fax, e-mail sent to him by any person to take action on any issue related to disaster management; and
- (e) take all other programmes that he deems to be expedient and necessary.

(4) If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Director General or if the Director General is unable to discharge the functions of his office on account of absence, illness or any other cause, any officer as directed by the Government shall perform the charge of the Director General until the new Director General appointed in the vacant post takes the charge or the Director General becomes able to perform the functions of his office again.

11. Appointment of officers and employees.-The Government may, for the purpose of carrying out the functions of the Department, appoint such number of officers and employees as may be necessary, and the terms of their service shall be prescribed by rules.

12. Establishment of National Disaster Management Research and Training Institute.-(1) For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Government may, if necessary, establish a ‘National Disaster Management Research and Training Institute’ to conduct research on disaster and the effects of climate change and developing the capability of disaster management method and take programmes on other relevant matters.

(2) Functions and procedure of administration and other relevant matters of the institution established under sub-section (1) shall be prescribed by rules.

13. Constitution of National Disaster Volunteers Organization.- (1) For the purpose of conducting fast and effective response before, after and during a disaster, the Government may make a programme based on community and constitute a volunteer organization to be called “National Disaster Volunteers” under it.

(2) Duties, training, uniform, benefits, functions and procedure of management of the volunteer organization constituted under sub-section (1) shall be prescribed by rules.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), if any volunteer organization is constituted for the same purpose before the commencement of this Act, it shall be deemed to have been constituted under this Act and shall perform the duties in accordance with the directions issued by the Government.

14. National Disaster Response Co-Ordination Group.- (1) For the purpose of conducting the response programme in well-organized manner and effectively during the large scale disasters, a National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group shall be formed which shall consist of the following members, namely:—

- (1) Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, who shall also be the Chairperson;
- (2) Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives;

- (3) Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division;
- (4) Secretary, Finance Division;
- (5) Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- (6) Secretary, Ministry of Information;
- (7) Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;
- (8) Secretary, Ministry of Post and Telecommunication;
- (9) Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources;
- (10) Secretary, Ministry of Education;
- (11) Secretary, Ministry of Shipping;
- (12) Secretary, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division;
- (13) Secretary, Disaster Management and Relief Division, who shall also be the member secretary.

(2) National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group, if necessary, may co-opt any person as a member of the Group.

(3) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, decrease or increase the number of members of the National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group.

(4) National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group may invite any person or organization in its meetings to administer the response activities in well organized manner and effectively and to make coordinated, and such person or organization shall be obligated to be present in the meeting and to provide assistance to the National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group.

15. Meeting of National Disaster Response Co-Ordination Group.- (1) Subject to the other provisions of this section, the National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group may determine the procedure of its meeting.

(2) Every meeting of the Group shall be presided over by the Chairman of the Group and shall be held in such places and times as may be determined by the Chairman:

Provided that in the absence of the Chairperson, any other member nominated by him, may preside over the meeting.

(3) The National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group may hold its meeting at any date and time as it deems necessary:

Provided that presence of one-third members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

(4) Decisions of the meeting of the group shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting, and in case of equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(5) No act or proceeding of the group shall be invalid merely on the ground of any existence of a vacancy in, or defect in the constitution of the coordination group and no question shall be raised in any court or other forum.

(6) Disaster Management and Relief Division shall provide secretarial assistance to the National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group.

16. Responsibilities and functions of National Disaster Response Co-Ordination Group.-The following shall be the responsibilities and functions of National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group, namely:-

- (1) to evaluate disaster situation and activate the method and process of disaster response and speedy rescue;
- (2) to ensure the sending of resources for response in disaster;
- (3) to ensure proper dissemination of warning signals;
- (4) to co-ordinate the response and speedy rescue operation;
- (5) to supervise post-disaster rescue and search operations;
- (6) to co-ordinate the post-disaster relief operations;
- (7) to ensure the speedy sending of additional equipment and materials to areas where telecommunication is disrupted;
- (8) to determine the preference relating to relief materials, fund and vehicles and provide directions;
- (9) to send additional workforce and provisions to the areas of disaster and to co-ordinate the sending of Armed Forces with specific responsibilities to ensure the facilities and communication;
- (10) to keep active the flow of information during emergency disaster situation;
- (11) to implement the decisions of the Council and inform the Council about the situation of the disaster;
- (12) to make and update the directives to implement Multi-agency Disaster Incident Management System;
- (13) to give recommendations on the matter of disaster preparedness and risk reduction steps;
- (14) to provide directions on resources, services, and compounds identified as emergency shelter, requisition of vehicles and other facilities;
- (15) to submit recommendations to the Government to take assistance from the Armed Forces in devastating disaster situations or any such deteriorating situation where a fatal disaster may occur;
- (16) to recommend for taking consent about early purchase in pre-disaster period for one or more than one years at a time from the cabinet committee concerned with

the economic affairs to ensure supply, delivery or use of necessary materials or resources in emergency basis during disasters or post-disaster situations.

17. Disaster Management Committee, etc. of national level.- (1) For carrying out the purposes of this Act, there shall be the following committees, boards and platforms at the national level, namely:-

- (a) Inter-Ministry Disaster Management Co-ordination Committee;
- (b) National Disaster Management Advisory Committee;
- (c) Policy Committee on Cyclone Preparedness Programme;
- (d) Cyclone Preparedness Programme Implementation Board;
- (e) Earthquake Preparedness and Awareness Committee;
- (f) National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- (g) Committee for Speedy Dissemination of Disaster Related Signals, Strategy Determination and Implementation.

(2) Formation of the Committee, Board or Platform mentioned in sub-section (1) and their responsibilities and functions shall be prescribed by rules.

(3) The Government may, if necessary, by notification in the official Gazette, form one or more Committees, Boards, Platforms, Groups or Taskforces and determine their functions, in addition to the Committees, Boards or Platforms as mentioned in sub-section (1).

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, until rule is made for carrying out the purposes of sub-section (2) or until notification is issued for carrying out the purposes of sub-section (3), as the case may be, any Committee, Board, Platform, Group or Taskforce formed under standing orders on disaster for the same purposes, if any, shall be deemed to be formed under this Act and, subject to consistency with this Act, may perform the responsibilities and functions specified in such orders.

18. Local Level Disaster Management Committee and Group.- (1) For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the following Disaster Management Committees or, Health Management Committees, as the case may be, shall be formed at the local level, namely:—

- (a) City Corporation Disaster Management Committee;
- (b) District Disaster Management Committee;
- (c) Upazila Disaster Management Committee;
- (d) Pourashava Disaster Management Committee;
- (e) Union Disaster Management Committee; and
- (f) District or Upazila Health Management Committee for the Disaster Period, if necessary.

(2) For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the following Disaster Response Co-ordination Groups shall be formed at the local level, namely:—

- (a) City Corporation Disaster Response Co-ordination Group;
- (b) District Disaster Response Co-ordination Group;
- (c) Upazila Disaster Response Co-ordination Group;
- (d) Pourashava Disaster Response Co-ordination Group.

(3) Formation of committees and groups and their responsibilities and functions mentioned in clause (1) and (2) shall be prescribed by rules.

(4) The Government may, if necessary, by notification in the official Gazette, form one or more Committees, Boards, Platforms, Groups or Taskforces and determine their functions, in addition to the Committees, Boards or Platforms as mentioned in sub-section (1) and (2).

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, until rules is made for carrying out the purposes of sub-section (3) or until notification is issued for carrying out the purposes of sub-section (4), as the case may be, any Committee or Group formed under standing orders on disaster for the same purposes, if any, shall be deemed to be have been formed under this Act and, subject to consistency with this Act, may perform the responsibilities and functions specified in such orders.

19. Making National Disaster Management Policy.- For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Government may make a National Disaster Management Policy by taking into consideration different communities, geographical regions, hazards and sectors maintaining consistency with the working structure relating to international and regional disaster management systems.

20. Making National and Local Disaster Management Plan.- (1) The Government may make a National Disaster Management Plan for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Local Disaster Management Committees shall make local disaster management plans in accordance with the plan mentioned in sub-section (1) based on their own areas and local hazards.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), until a National Disaster Management Plan is made under such sub-section, the National Plan for Disaster Management 2010-2015 made by the Ministry Food and Disaster Management for the same purpose, shall remain effective with necessary adaptation, subject to compatibility with this Act.

21. Duties and responsibilities and duties of different Ministry, Divisions and Organizations.- The Government may, by order, determine the duties and responsibilities of different ministry, divisions, directorates, office, and Government and Non-Government Organizations regarding disaster management:

Provided that until the order is issued, the duties and responsibilities of different ministry, divisions, directorates, offices, and Government and Non-Government Organizations specified in standing orders on disasters shall continue and remain in force as if it was determined under this Act.

[**Explanation:** For the purposes of this chapter, “resources” means, the relief materials, workforce, vehicles, vessels, equipment, land and structures or instruments usable for search, rescue, removal of debris and garbage, aircraft and medical and construction equipment including shelter, habitat and other objects relevant thereto, materials, services and technical skills to be given or usable in conducting disaster management programmes efficiently or to maintain the livelihood of the affected community effectively.]

Chapter III

Declaration of disaster zone, participation of different forces etc.

22. Declaration of distress zone.- (1) The President, if he thinks fit or after receiving a recommendation under sub-section (3), as the case may be, satisfied that, any incident of disaster has occurred in any area of the country to face which taking additional measure and to prevent further loss and devastation it is urgent and necessary to enforce special power, he may declare, by issuing notification in the official gazette, the concerned area as affected area.

(2) If it becomes urgent and necessary to take the measures to prevent further loss and devastation caused by the disaster by taking additional measures to face any devastating disaster that has occurred any in any region, any disaster management committee, group or organization in local level may submit a recommendation to the Government through the Deputy Commissioner to take necessary actions to declare the concerned region as affected zone.

(3) After receiving the recommendation under sub-section (2), the Deputy Commissioner shall verify the justification of the issue immediately and shall send the concerned recommendation with his opinion to the Government and the Government, having accepted the recommendation of National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group on the concerned issue, may submit the recommendation to the President to declare the concerned region as an affected zone.

(4) If notification is issued to declare the area as affected zone under this section, its duration shall remain in force for not exceeding 2 (two) months unless the President decreases, increases or withdraws it before the completion of such duration.

23. Special functions to be performed in relation to affected zone.- (1) If any region is declared as affected zone under sub-section (1) of section 22, the Government may, if necessary, direct the concern ministries, divisions, directorates, offices, Government and semi-Government organizations and committees constituted under this Act to perform the following special functions, namely:—

- (a) to ensure availability of the resources in Government and private stock in the affected zone to tackle the disaster situation;
- (b) to ensure the availability of additional resources, if necessary;
- (c) to ensure public security and control of law and order situation;
- (d) to take proper steps to mitigate the loss of life, property and the environment;
and

- (e) to take all necessary measures according to the local disaster management plan.

(2) All concerned officers and employees of the ministries concerned, divisions, directorates, offices, Government and Non-Government organizations shall be obliged to comply with the directions given under sub-section (1).

24. Power delegated to implement the special duties in respect of affected zone.-

The Government may, for the purpose of implementing and supervising the spot in any affected zone the special duties mentioned in section 23, empower and authorize the concerned Deputy Commissioner by written or, for immediate necessity, by fax, e-mail, telephone, mobile phone or any other electronic media.

25. Involving private organizations and persons in activities relating to affected zone management.- (1) The Government may, if necessary, give necessary directions to involve any private organization and person in activities in respect of the management of affected zone.

(2) The Government may, utilise treatment facilities of hospitals, clinics or medical centres operated under any autonomous, private and Non-government Organizations for disaster management activities and all physicians, nurses, and other employees and health workers serving in such hospitals, clinics or centres shall be obliged to provide necessary medical services on demand of the Government or local committee during the disaster situation.

(3) Contingency expenditure in respect of providing medical services under sub-section (2) shall be borne by the Government by such manner as may be prescribed by rule.

26. Requisition.- (1) According to the guidelines of National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group, the Deputy Commissioner may make requisition of property, services, residences, vehicles and other facilities identified as emergency shelters from any authority or person.

(2) If an order for requisition is given under sub-section (1), the concern authority or person shall be obliged to comply with it.

(3) For carrying out the purpose of sub-section (1), the Government shall determine the procedure of requisition and matters relevant thereto by rule.

27. Assistance for the person affected and vulnerable by the disaster.- (1) The Government may take programme to provide necessary assistance for proper rehabilitation or to reduce the risk of community affected or vulnerable by disaster in such manner as may be prescribed by rules:

Provided that preference shall be given on protection and reduction of risk of the poorest and underprivileged community, especially the older persons, women, children and disabled persons while providing such assistance.

(2) If any officer, employee or person assigned to provide emergency response or humanitarian assistance programme to tackle disaster become affected or endangered, the Government may undertake programmes to provide necessary support for their proper rehabilitation or reduction of risk by manner prescribed by the rule.

[**Explanation:** For carrying out the purposes of this section, ‘underprivileged community’ means the community, tribal group, small ethnic group and anthropological community which are deprived of socio-economic and different facilities.]

28. Imperatives about information on disaster situation.- If the chairman or any member of national or local level committee himself or being informed by any person or organization satisfied that a disaster situation is imminent in an area, he shall inform the concern committee immediately of the issue for taking necessary steps.

29. Complaint about irregularity, negligence or mismanagement, appeal, etc.- (1) If any person, family or community affected by disaster find any irregularity, negligence or mismanagement about disaster management, he or they may file an allegation to the concerning committee of national or local level and such committee shall, after investigation if necessary, settle the allegation concerned within 30 (thirty) days after it receives the application.

(2) If any person becomes aggrieved by any decision of any committee under sub-section (1), he may appeal, in case of the decision of the committee of national level, to the Government and in case of the decision of committee of local level, where applicable, to Divisional Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner and in this respect the decision of the Government or, Divisional Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner, as the case may be, shall be final.

30. Participation of Armed Forces in emergency response activities.- (1) If in any fatal disaster situation or in respect to the apprehension of any fatal disaster the assistance of the Armed Forces becomes essential, the National Disaster Response Co-ordination group may submit a recommendation to the Government for the assistance of the Armed Forces.

(2) If a recommendation is received from the National Disaster Response Co-ordination Group under sub-section (1), the Government may give directions to the Armed Forces to provide necessary assistance to the civil administration in pre-disaster or emergency response activities during a disaster accordingly.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), if in a fatal disaster situation or in case of apprehension of a fatal disaster at the local level, the assistance of the Armed Forces becomes essential for tackling the disaster situation effectively, the District Disaster Response Co-ordination Group may submit a recommendation to the Deputy Commissioner to take assistance from the Armed Forces.

(4) If the Deputy Commissioner receives any recommendation from the District Disaster Response Co-ordination Group under sub-section (3), he may send a demand note to the Armed Forces Division through Disaster Management and Relief Division seeking assistance of the Armed forces:

Provided that the Deputy Commissioner may, in case of emergency, seek assistance directly from the local Armed Forces Authority and in such case he shall, as soon as may be, inform the matter to the Disaster Management and Relief Division and the Armed Forces Division in writing through fax or e-mail.

(5) If the Armed Forces Division receives any direction or a demand note, as the case may be, under this section, the local Armed Forces Authority shall provide necessary assistance to the authority concerned in disaster management on the basis of priority.

31. Participation of law enforcement agencies in emergency response activities.-

If any necessity is perceived for the assistance of law enforcement agencies in a disaster situation and any deteriorating situation where a disaster may occur, the Deputy Commissioner concerned may seek assistance of the local law enforcement agencies directly and the law enforcement agencies shall be obliged to provide such assistance on the basis of priority.

[**Explanation:-** For carrying out the purposes of this section, ‘law enforcement agencies’ means Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Bangladesh Police, Coast Guard, Border Guard Bangladesh, Ansar and Village Defence Police (VDP) and similar para-military and non-military forces.]

Chapter IV

Disaster Management Fund, Relief Fund, etc.

32. Formation Disaster Management Fund, Relief Treasury.- (1) The Government shall, for carrying out the purposes of this Act, form two separate funds, to be called ‘National Disaster Management Fund’ and ‘District Disaster Management Fund’.

(2) Money received from the following sources shall be deposited to such funds, namely:—

- (a) grants made by the Government;
- (b) grants made by any foreign Government, organization or any international organization with the approval the Government;
- (c) grants made by any local authority;
- (d) donations made by any well-off of local level;
- (e) money received from any other lawful source.

(3) Money deposited to National Disaster Management Fund and District Disaster Management Fund shall be kept in any state-owned scheduled bank approved by the Government.

(4) ‘National Disaster Management Fund’ shall be maintained under supervision of the Disaster Management and Relief Division and the bank account of it shall be operated with joint signatures of the Secretary and the Joint Secretary (Relief) of that Division.

(5) ‘District Disaster Management Fund’ shall be maintained under supervision of District Disaster Management Committee and the bank account of such fund shall be operated with joint signatures of the Deputy Commissioner and the District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer.

(6) The procedure operating ‘National Disaster Management Fund’ and ‘District Disaster Management Fund’ shall be prescribed by rule:

Provided that, until the rule is made in this respect, management of these funds and their money may be spent according to financial rules and regulations of the Government.

(7) The Disaster Management and Relief Division may receive foreign relief or any other assistance directly during a disaster or immediately after a disaster:

Provided that the matter, if required, shall be informed to the ministry, division concerned or office later.

(8) For carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Government may, in addition to forming fund under sub-section (1), establish and manage central relief fund and district relief treasury.

(9) Notwithstanding anything contained under sub-section (8), until a relief treasury is established under this sub-section, the directorate of the existing central relief treasury and its district level storehouses may continue in such manner as if these are being established and managed under this Act.

33. Emergency purchase to response in disaster.- (1) During a disaster or its aftermath, if it becomes necessary to purchase early for one or more years together to ensure delivery, supply and use of materials or resources on an emergency, the National Disaster Response Coordination Group may recommend to Disaster Management and Relief Division to take consent from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in this respect.

(2) In case of early purchase according to the provision of section (1), the Director General, Deputy Commissioner and Upazila Nirbahi Officer may, with the permission of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, where applicable, execute necessary arrangement of purchase in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, 2006 and the Public Procurement Rules, 2008.

34. Directions for mass media and broadcasting centre.- Government may, for carrying out the purposes of this Act, direct to the regulatory authority or individual of any radio or *betar*, television, satellite television channel, print media, telecommunication network, electronic or cable network or any such information and technology based broadcast media, to telecast, publish and display the information, picture or news etc. on imminent disaster situation, early warning signals relating to disaster, disaster preparedness or public awareness issue and authority concerned or individual shall be obliged to comply with such directions.

35. Emergency imperatives for disaster management.- (1) Emergency instructions for disaster management mentioned in the Schedule must be complied with by everyone involved in it and, where applicable, necessary measure shall be taken according to the directions mentioned in it:

Provided that the Government shall issue public notification to inform people of such directions.

(2) The Government and local administration shall undertake inspirational and publicity measures so that all concern individuals, institutions, organizations, owner of establishments or authority comply with the directives in respect of emergency imperatives for disaster management mentioned in the Schedule and may enter and search into organizations and establishment to monitor and supervise regularly so that all concern implement and follow such directions.

Chapter V

Offences, Penalties etc.

36. Punishment for obstruction or attempt to obstruct in performing duty.- (1) If any person unlawfully assaults, threatens, insults, defames, humiliates any officer or person discharging his duty or empowered to tackle disaster management or obstructs the disaster management activities, shall be considered to have committed an offence under this Act and for such offence shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 1 (one) year or with fine not exceeding 1 (one) lakh Taka or with both.

(2) If any person unlawfully attempts to assault, threaten, insult, humiliate any officer or any person discharging his function or empowered to tackle disaster management or obstructs the disaster management activities, he shall be considered to have committed an offence under this Act and shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 6 (six) months or with fine not exceeding 50 (fifty) thousand Taka or with both.

37. Punishment for disobedience or failure to comply with directions.- If any person wilfully disobeys or wilfully disregards the directions given by the Government, National Disaster Response Coordination Group (NDRCG) or District Disaster Response Coordination Group, he shall be considered to have committed an offence under this Act and shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 1 (one) year or with fine not exceeding 1 (one) lakh Taka or with both.

38. Punishment for presenting claim which is false, untrue or has no ground.- If any person presents claim which is false, untrue or has no ground to get aid or facility from disaster management programme conducted under this Act, he shall be considered to have committed an offence under this Act and shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 1 (one) year or with fine not exceeding 1 (one) lakh Taka or with both.

39. Punishment for misuse or use for personal interest of resources.- If any person assigned for the management or control of resources to be used in respect of disaster management, misuses such resources or use for his own interest or instigate some other to misuse or use for his own interest, he shall be considered to have committed an offence under this Act and shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 1 (one) year or with fine not exceeding 1 (one) lakh taka or with both.

40. Punishment for price hiking of essential commodities in affected zone.- If any person increases or creates cause to increase the price of essential commodities to earn illegal profit in affected zone, then the person is considered to have committed an offence under this Act and shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 1 (one) year or with fine not exceeding 1 (one) lakh Taka or with both.

41. Punishment for creating salinity, flood or obstruction to water flow or causing damage to embankment etc.- If any person, wilfully for personal gain or with negligence, creates salinity or flood in any area or obstructs the ongoing functions of sluice gate or causes any harm to it or obstructs water flow or cause any loss to life and property through creating disaster situation by damaging embankment or cutting the embankment or take effort or give assistance for such occurrence, such person shall be deemed to have committed offence under this Act and shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a

term not exceeding 3 (three) years but not less than 1 (one) year or fine not exceeding 2 (two) lakh Taka fine or with both.

42. Punishment for contravention of order under section 34 by mass media and broadcasting centres.- If any person contravenes or abets in contravention of orders given under Section 34, such person shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this Act and shall be punishable with fine which shall not exceeding 5 (five) lakh taka.

43. Punishment for contravention of emergency directions on disaster management.- If any person contravenes the emergency directions on disaster management mentioned in the schedule, read with section 35, or do not take necessary steps according to such directions, for such offence he shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this Act and shall be punishable with fine which shall not exceeding 5 (five) lakh Taka and in default with simple imprisonment which may extend to 3 (three) months.

44. Failure to perform the duty by Government officers and employees.- (1) If any Government employee fails to perform any duty or contravenes any provision of this Act or any rule made there under, such person shall be responsible for such failure and contravention, unless he proves that such failure or contravention, as the case may be, was beyond his knowledge or that he tried best to prevent such failure or violation but failed.

(2) If any Government employee is responsible for contravention under sub-section (1), he shall be charged for offence relating to code of conduct and discipline applicable for government officers and employees and for such cause departmental disciplinary action shall be taken against him.

45. Taking cognizance of offences.- No court shall take cognizance of any case against any person under this Act without a written complaint by the Deputy Commissioner or any representative empowered to act on his behalf.

46. Offence non-cognizable, bailable and non-compoundable.- All offences under this Act are non-cognizable, bailable and non-compoundable.

47. Application of the Act V of 1898.- The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898) shall be applicable to file complaint, investigation, trial and appeal of any offence under this Act.

48. Application of the Act LIX of 2009.- Notwithstanding anything contrary in this Act, all offences committed under section 43 shall be triable by the Mobile Court Act, 2009 (Act LIX of 2009).

49. Claim for compensation for disaster created by man.- (1) If any person wilfully or negligently, without taking proper protective measure, causes such damage to environment which creates cause for any disaster and as a result causes loss to life, properties, resources, establishment or trade and commerce of any person or institution, the person or institution who suffers loss may file a suit to the proper court for compensation from such person.

(2) The provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act No. V of 1908) shall be applicable to the trial of suit for compensation under this section.

(3) If any suit is filed under sub-section (1), the Court may, considering the evidences, give order to pay compensation amounting to the actual damage or such proper amount as it deems fit.

50. Evidentiary value of recorded photo and recorded conversation by camera.- Notwithstanding anything contained in the Evidence Act, 1872 (Act No. I of 1872), if any person involved in disaster management or any member of law enforcing agencies or any other person records or takes any video or photo, or records any conversation in tape recorder and disc in respect of commission, attempt or abetment to commit any offence or damage under this Act, such video, photo, tape or disc shall be admitted as evidence in trial of suit relating to such offence or damage.

51. Offence committed by companies.- If any offence is committed under this Act or any rule of it is violated by any company or institution which has direct involvement with that offence or violation, every director, partner, executive, manager, secretary or any other officer or employee of that company or institution shall be deemed to have committed the offence or violation unless he proves that offence or violation has been committed beyond his knowledge or that he tried his best to prevent the commission of such offence or violation but failed.

Explanation: In this Section-

- (a) ‘Company or Institution’ means any company, organization, institution, shared business, association or enterprise of more than one person, and,
- (b) The term ‘Director’ includes partners and members of board of directors.

Chapter VI

Miscellaneous

52. Giving award, honour and allowances etc.- (1) The Government may give special award or honour to any person or organization for their great contribution in disaster management.

(2) The Government may award special allowances to any officer or employee who performed full-time duty starting from disaster monitoring and issuing early warning to post-disaster programme.

(3) The procedure of giving award, honour and allowances mentioned in sub-section (1) and (2), and procedure thereof shall be prescribed by rule.

53. Power to make International and Regional Treaty.- (1) The Government may, for carrying out the purposes of this Act, take and provide cooperation from and to any foreign state, government, international and regional organization to conduct relief operation during disaster including exchange of information, analysis, research relating to disaster management and use of geo-satellite.

(2) The Government may, to carrying out the purposes of sub-section (1), execute necessary memorandum of understanding, agreement, convention, treaty or any other legal instrument with any foreign state, government, and international and regional organization.

54. Saving actions done in good faith.- No civil or criminal action or any other legal procedure can be filed against the Government, or any Government employee or any council,

committee or group or platform constituted under this Act for any action or attempt of any action done in good faith without negligence under this Act or rule made there under.

55. Application of Standing Orders relating to disaster, etc.- For carrying out the purposes of this Act, Standing Orders relating to disaster published by the Government, with necessary adaptation, shall be applicable until rules are made under this Act.

(2) Until the Council, National Volunteer Organization, National Disaster Response Coordination Group, Committee, Platform, Group or Taskforce, whatever it may be called, is not constituted under this Act, any Council, National Volunteer Organization, National Disaster Response Coordination Group, Committee, Platform, Group or Taskforce constituted under Standing Orders on disaster, if any, subject to their consistency with this Act, shall remain effective as if they were constituted under this Act.

56. Power of Government in removing difficulties.- If any difficulty or problem arises in giving effect to this Act due to ambiguity of any provision of this Act, the Government may, by notification in official Gazette, subject to the compatibility with the provisions of this Act, provide guidelines in respect of duty on such issue by making clear or giving explanation of that provision.

57. Responsibility of Government for effective implementation of the Act. - The Government shall take all necessary measures for effective implementation of this Act and may, if necessary, issue directions in this respect.

58. Power to make rules.- The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

59. Publication of text translated in English.- (1) After the commencement of this Act, the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, publish an Authentic English text of the Bangla text of this Act.

(2) In the event of conflict between the Bangla and the English text, the Bangla text shall prevail.

60. Repeal, transformation, savings etc. of the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation and Disaster Management Bureau.- (1) On coming into force of this Act, the executive order No. RRD-Sec-Admin-I/67/82/35 and Sec-Admin-II/5/84-30 dated 09-01-1983 and 29-01-1984 respectively, of the then Department of Relief and Rehabilitation shall stand repealed and existing Relief and Rehabilitation Division, hereafter referred to as the abolished department, established and re-established by this order, shall be abolished.

(2) Upon the repeal and abolishment under the sub-section (1), the abolished Department shall be transformed into Department of Disaster Management (DDM) under the provision of section 7 and-

- (a) all assets, power, authority, privileges and all property, movable and immovable, cash and money deposited in banks, projects and all other claims and rights of the abolished department shall be transferred to the Department and the Department shall be its owner;
- (b) All suits and prosecutions instituted against or by the abolished department shall be deemed to be suits and prosecutions against or by the Department;

- (c) all debts, obligations and liabilities of and all contracts entered into by, on behalf of or with the abolished department shall be deemed to be the debts, obligations and liabilities of and, entered into by, on behalf of or with the Department;
- (d) all records, documents, files and papers, information and data of the abolished department shall be transferred to the Department and the Department shall preserve such records, documents, files and papers, information and data so transferred in accordance with the public rules-regulations;
- (e) activities of subordinate or branch offices established or set up, whatever may be the name, and wherever it may be established or set up, under the abolished department, until a subordinate or branch office of the Department under this Act is set up or until it is not abolished, as the case may be, shall remain effective and continue in force as if they were established or set up under this Act;
- (f) all order, directions, policy or instrument made or issued by the abolished department shall, subject to the consistency with this Act, until nothing is made and issued by the Department on same subject and purposes or until they are abolished, continue in force and remain effective as if they have been made and issued by the Department;
- (g) activities adopted, decisions given, training or any other programme by or of the abolished department remaining continued, unfinished or unimplemented, may be finished or implemented under the Department as if such activities, decisions, training or programme have been adopted by the Department;
- (h) all officers and employees of the abolished department shall, until no changed or re-order is given, stand transferred to and hold office under the Department on the same terms and conditions as were enjoyed under the abolished department, and continue to receive remuneration, allowances and privileges as were received by them before; and
- (i) applicable existing service rules, appointment rules or any other legal instruments, until no altered or reorder is given or, until abolished, as the case may be, shall, with necessary modifications, remain in force for the officers and employees of the abolished department transferred to the Department on the same terms and conditions as if such service rules, appointment rules or legal instruments have been made under this Act.

(3) On the commencement of this Act, the office memo No. RM/Admin-1/27/13/260(65) dated 8-5-1993 of the then Ministry of Relief shall stand repealed, and the Disaster Management Bureau formed by such memo, hereafter referred to as the Bureau, shall be abolished.

(4) Upon the repeal and abolishment under the sub-section (3) -

- (a) all assets, power, authority, privileges and all property, movable and immovable, cash and money deposited in banks, projects and all other claims and rights of the abolished bureau shall be transferred to the Department and the Department shall be its owner;

- (b) all suits and prosecutions instituted against or by the abolished bureau shall be deemed to be suits and prosecutions against or by the Department;
- (c) all debts, obligations and liabilities of and all contracts entered into by, on behalf of or with the abolished bureau shall be deemed to be the debts, obligations and liabilities of and, entered into by, on behalf of or with the Department;
- (d) all records, documents, files and papers, information and data of the abolished Bureau shall be transferred to the Department and the Department shall preserve such records, documents, files and papers, information and data so transferred in accordance with the public rules-regulations;
- (e) activities of subordinate or branch offices established or set up, whatever may be the name, and wherever it may be established or set up, under the abolished Bureau, until a subordinate or branch office of the Department under this Act is set up or until it is not abolished, as the case may be, shall remain effective and continue in force as if they were established or set up under this Act;
- (f) all order, directions, policy or instrument made or issued by the abolished Bureau shall, subject to the consistency with this Act, until nothing is made and issued by the Department on same subject and purposes or until they are abolished, continue in force and remain effective as if they have been made and issued by the Department;
- (g) activities adopted, decisions given, training or any other programme by or of the abolished Bureau remaining continued, unfinished or unimplemented, may be finished or implemented under the Department as if such activities, decisions, training or programme have been adopted by the Department;
- (h) all officers and employees of the abolished Bureau shall, until no changed or re-order is given, stand transferred to and hold office under the Department on the same terms and conditions as were enjoyed under the abolished Bureau, and continue to receive remuneration, allowances and privileges as were received by them before; and
- (i) applicable existing service rules, appointment rules or any other legal instruments, until no altered or reorder is given or, until abolished, as the case may be, shall, with necessary modifications, remain in force for the officers and employees of the abolished Bureau transferred to the Department on the same terms and conditions as if such service rules, appointment rules or legal instruments have been made under this Act.

(5) The Department shall, as soon as possible, prepare for the officers and employees transferred from abolished Department under sub-section (1) and abolished Bureau under sub-section (3) a coordinated seniority list after determining the interpersonal seniority considering the following issues, and preserve such list, namely:—

- (a) seniority shall be counted from the date of joining in the concerned post;
- (b) if more than one officers and employees were employed at the same time, interpersonal seniority of those officers and employees shall be determined

according to merit list prepared by concerned selection committee or appointment authority;

- (c) for promotion, seniority of promoted officers and employees shall be counted from the date on which the order of promotion was issued or the date mentioned in such order;
- (d) if more than one officer and employee are promoted at the same time, inter-personnel seniority shall be determined in promoted post on the basis of their interpersonal seniority in the post from which they have been promoted.
- e) seniority must be given to promoted officers or employees among the directly appointed and promoted officers or employees who joined on the same date;
- (f) if there are more than one officer or employee of the same date remain under consideration to be determined for the seniority described in the above mentioned clauses, seniority must be given to the person who is senior among them according to birth date.

Schedule

[See section 35 and 43]

Emergency imperatives and duties to protect life and property in disaster management

No.	Emergency imperatives and duties
(1)	Equipments relating to fire protection, fire extinguishment, search, rescue and primary treatment must be set up and made available in active conditions at all hospitals, clinics, community centers, shopping malls, cinema halls, restaurants, factories, stores.
(2)	There must be more than one exit way including emergency exit way according to the Occupant Load to facilitate the secured exit during hazardous situation at all hospitals, clinics, community centers, shopping malls, cinema halls, restaurants, factories and the emergency exit way must be identified by Floor Marking.
(3)	No obstacle can be made in the passage of fire extinguisher and rescue vehicles during a conflagration, earthquake, building slide and other disasters.
(4)	Adequate number of lifebuoy, one transistor, whistle, torchlight and other things of disaster preparedness must be stored in passenger vessels running by river, seagoing fishing boat or trawlers.
(5)	All vessels of 150 feet and less not capable to defend against stormy wind of the speed of 61 kilometer, must come back to secured place immediately if the Meteorological Department suggests to hoist local cautionary signal no. 4,
(6)	No such obstacle must be created in the way of coming and going water or no such development work shall be done which may cause water logging or create sufferings of common people.
(7)	'Danger Mark' must be set up on electric poles and other dangerous establishments which may cause hazards and disaster.
(8)	Materials containing highly inflammable chemicals or dangerous chemicals must not be stored and marketed without adequate arrangement of protection in residential areas or any shopping mall or markets.
(9)	Sand and trees on sea cost must not be removed or cut down.
(10)	In any unnatural incident is found to reasonably which may turn into disaster, must be informed immediately to the chairman or member of committee of local disaster management or to nearby police station.
(11)	No obstacle can be made during implementation of directions to relocate the people staying in house, shops, or trading establishment lying on slop or bottom of hills in pre-disaster, during disaster and post disaster situation.