

WEATHERING THE STORM IN ERSAMA-

Extra Questions and Notes



Weathering The Storm In Ersama
Beehive class 9

Brief Summary

was waist deep, and progress was slow. At several points, he lost the road and had to swim. After some distance, he was relieved to find two friends of his uncle who were also returning to their village. They decided to move ahead together.

As they waded through the water, the scenes they witnessed had to push away many — and carcasses of dogs, against them as they moved ahead. In every village that they passed, they could barely see a

Full (in hindi)

INTRODUCTION



In October 1999, a cyclone hit Orissa. It killed thousands of people and destroyed hundreds of houses. Prashant a young man, had gone Ersama, a small town, to visit one of his friends. The place was just eighteen kilometres from his own village. Towards the evening, the town was hit by a devastating cyclone. Prashant and the family of his friend were marooned on the roof of the house for two dreadful nights. On the third day, Prashant decided to go to his village. He reached there with great difficulty. He found destruction everywhere in his village. He at once gathered some young people of his village and started helping the poor and the needy. This is the story of Prashant's courage in the face of a great calamity.

(अक्टूबर 1999 में उड़ीसा में एक चक्रवात आया। इसने हज़ारों लोगों को मार दिया और सैकड़ों घर नष्ट कर दिए। एक युवा व्यक्ति, प्रशांत, अपने एक मित्र से मिलने एरसामा नामक एक छोटे-से कस्बे में गया हुआ था। वह स्थान उसके अपने गाँव से केवल अट्ठारह किलोमीटर दूर था। शाम के समय, कस्बे में विनाशकारी चक्रवात आया। प्रशांत एवं उसके मित्र का परिवार घर की छत पर दो भयानक रातों के लिए फंसा रहा। तीसरे दिन, प्रशांत ने अपने गाँव जाने का फैसला किया। वह वहाँ बहुत कठिनाई से पहुँचा। उसने अपने गाँव में चारों ओर विनाश देखा। उसने तुरंत गाँव के युवा लोगों को इकट्ठा किया और गरीब एवं जरूरतमंद लोगों की सहायता करना आरंभ कर दिया। यह एक महान विपत्ति का सामना करने में प्रशांत के साहस की कहानी है।)

Theme

When a natural calamity like a storm takes place, people are put to a lot of suffering. Apart from the help the government provides, the members of the community should also mobilise themselves to solve their problems. In this story, we see how a young boy, hardly 19 years old, takes the initiative and helps the

members of his community to stand on their feet. His leadership qualities are praised.

Message

This lesson conveys the message that when a natural calamity strikes, the members of the community should help themselves. They should not be totally dependent upon the government to provide help. It also gives the message that the youth have a major role to play in organising the community to help themselves. Youth should provide a leadership role to solve the problems of the common people. In this lesson, we see the leadership provided by Prashant during the superstorm in Orissa village. We should especially concentrate our efforts on women and children who form the most vulnerable section of society.

Justification of the title

A superstorm happens in Ersama in Orissa state, in 1999. A boy called Prashant sees nearly 2500 people in a pitiable condition in a storm shelter. He mobilised the people to help themselves and provided succour to them. He arranged accommodation and food for them. Even after the storm was over, for several months he was involved in rehabilitation work for the community. Since the article speaks about the efforts of the people to overcome the destruction caused by the storm, the title is appropriate

Character Sketch

Prashant: Prashant is a young boy, just 19 years old. He finds himself in a village devastated by the superstorm in Orissa, in 1999. He visits the storm shelter in his village and decides to help them out. He takes up a leadership role and starts organising the people. For several months, he helps the people to overcome their difficulties and come back to normal life. He becomes a saviour of orphans and widows. Thus we find Prashant to be a born leader who is ready to work hard to help people to solve their problems. The people of his village are grateful for all his efforts. He is a role model for the youth of our country.

Vocabulary

Headquarters—head office; Coastal—near sea; Menace—threat; Incessant—continuous; Uproot—root out; Swirl—whirls; Mortar—plaster; Devastation—destruction; Velocity—speed; Destruction—damage; Cyclone—a violent rotating windstorm; Surge—wave; Refuge—shelter for protection; Glimpse—view; Carcass—dead body; Disguise—altering one’s appearance to control one’s identity; Trap—a clever plan designed to trick; Bereaved—suffering from grief; Cease—to stop; Recede—to retreat; Situation—a state of affairs; Plead—make an emotional appeal; Equip—to provide with; Expedition—journey; Shallow—less deep; Catastrophe—a disaster; Remnant—remains; Outstretch—spread; Miracle—an extraordinary or welcome event; that is attributed to divine agency; Anxiously—eagerly; Shelter—rescue camp; Tumult—noise; Pressurise—to force; Triumphant—victor; Rot—spoiled; Reluctant—unwilling; Wound—injury; Injured—harmed, damaged or impaired; Utensils—a container, especially for household use; Communicate—to send message; Orphan—a child having no parents alive; Secure—to gain; Persuade—to convince; Organise—to arrange; Volunteer—a person working without any desire for financial gains; Resist—to protest; Stigma—blot; Resettle—to rehabilitate; Heal—to recover; Grief—hardship.

Summary:

On 27th October 1999. Prashant went to meet one of his friends who lived in Ersama. The place was eighteen kilometres from his village. In the evening, a super cyclone came. Winds beat against the houses with great fury. There was heavy and continuous rain. Houses and people have washed away against the

flood. His friend's house was made of bricks and cement. it was strong enough to survive the wind blowing at 350 km per hour. But one uprooted tree fell on their house and damaged some part of its roof and walls. To escape the waters rising in the house, Prashant and his friend's family took refuge on the roof. For the next two days, Prashant sat huddled with his friend's family on the rooftop. They froze in the cold and the rain. In the early morning, Prashant saw the destruction caused by the cyclone. There was a sheet of water everywhere. Only parts of cemented houses were still visible. All other houses had been washed away. Even huge trees had fallen. Bloating dead bodies of animals and human beings were floating everywhere.

The destruction caused by the cyclone and the waves of the ocean continued for the next thirty-six hours. Two days later, the rain ceased and the rainwater slowly began to recede. Prashant was worried about his family. He took a long stick and started on the eighteen kilometres long and difficult journey to his village. There was water everywhere. He had to use his stick to locate the road. At places, it was waist deep and the progress was slow. Sometimes, he lost the road and had to swim. After some distance, he found two friends of his uncle. They decided to move ahead together. They had to push away many human bodies floating on the water. There were also carcasses of dogs, goats and cattle. In every village they passed, they could barely see a house standing. He feared that his family could not have survived the cyclone. At last, he reached his village Kalikuda. His heart sank. His house was gone. His family was nowhere. In order to look for his family, Prashant went to the Red Cross shelter. Fortunately, his family was alive. They were very glad to see Prashant. He came to know that eighty-six lives were lost in his village and all the ninety-six houses had been washed away.

The cyclone caused a lot of damage in Prashant's village and surrounding areas. Prashant decided to help his own family and the others. He organised a group of youths. They pressured the local merchant to give rice to the starving villagers. They burnt a fire and cooked the rice, although it was rotting. His next step was to clean the place of filth, dirt, urine and floating dead bodies. They tended the wounds and fractures of many who had been injured. On the fifth day, a military helicopter dropped food. But it did not return. Prashant and others devised a plan

to attract the attention of the helicopters. They deputed children to lie there with empty utensils on their stomachs. This was done to communicate to the helicopters that they were hungry. The scheme worked and the helicopters started dropping food regularly.

Prashant brought the orphaned children and made a shelter for them. He asked the woman to look after them. But he found that women and children were sinking deeper and deeper into their grief. A non-government organization had started a portion of food for work programme. Prashant persuaded them to join it. He engaged other volunteers to help widows start their lives again. The orphaned children were resettled in their own community.

Though six months have passed since the cyclone caused heavy destruction, the widows and orphaned children of the village still seek Prashant in their hour of grief and need.

SUMMARY IN HINDI

27 अक्टूबर, 1999 को प्रशांत अपने एक मित्र को मिलने गया जो एरसामा में रहता था। वह स्थान उसके गाँव से अठारह किलोमीटर दूर था। शाम को एक तीव्र चक्रवात आ गया। हवा बड़े जोर के साथ मकानों से टकराई। तेज और लगातार बरसात हुई। घर और लोग बाढ़ में बह गए। उसके मित्र का घर ईटों और सीमेंट का बना हुआ था। यह इतना मज़बूत था कि 350

मील प्रति घंटा की गति से चलने वाली हवाओं को झेल गया। मगर एक उखड़ा हुआ वृक्ष उनके घर पर गिर गया और छत के कुछ भाग एवं दीवारों को नुकसान पहुँचाया। घर में बढ़ते हुए पानी से बचने के लिए प्रशांत और उसके मित्र के परिवार ने छत पर आश्रय लिया। वे ठंड एवं बरसात में जम गए। सुबह प्रशांत ने चक्रवात द्वारा किए गए विनाश को देखा। चारों तरफ पानी की चादर थी। केवल सीमेंट वाले मकानों के कुछ भाग नजर आ रहे थे। बाकी सारे घर बह गए थे। यहाँ तक कि बड़े-बड़े वृक्ष भी गिर गए थे। जानवरों और मनुष्यों की फूली हुई लाशें चारों तरफ तैर रही थीं।

चक्रवात एवं सागर की लहरों द्वारा पैदा किया गया विनाश अगले छत्तीस घंटे तक चला। दो दिन बाद, बरसात बंद हो गई और बरसात का पानी धीरे-धीरे उतरने लगा। प्रशांत को अपने परिवार की चिंता थी। उसने एक लंबी छड़ी ली और अपने गाँव की ओर अट्टारह किलोमीटर लंबी एवं मुश्किल यात्रा आरंभ कर दी। चारों तरफ पानी था। उसे सड़क को ढूँढने के लिए छड़ी का प्रयोग करना पड़ता था। कई जगह पानी कमर तक गहरा था और आगे बढ़ना बहुत धीमा था। कई बार सड़क खो जाती थी और उसे तैरना पड़ता था। कुछ दूर जाने के बाद उसे अपने चाचा जी के दो मित्र मिल गए। उन्होंने मिलकर आगे बढ़ने का फैसला किया। उन्हें पानी पर तैरती हुई मानवीय लाशों को परे धकेलना पड़ता था। वहाँ कुत्तों, बकरियों और मवेशियों की लाशें भी थीं। वे जिस भी गाँव से गुजरे, वहाँ मुश्किल से ही कोई घर सलामत नज़र जाता था। उसे डर था कि उसका परिवार उस चक्रवात में जीवित नहीं बचा होगा। आखिर वह अपने गाँव कालीकुदा पहुँचा। उसका दिल डूब गया। उसका घर बह गया था। उसके परिवार का कहीं पता नहीं था। अपने परिवार की तलाश करने के लिए प्रशांत रेडक्रॉस आश्रय में गया। सौभाग्यवश उसका परिवार जीवित था। वे प्रशांत को देखकर बहुत प्रसन्न हुए। उसे पता चला कि गाँव के छियासी लोग मर गए थे और सारे के सारे छियानवें घर बह गए थे।

चक्रवात ने प्रशांत के गाँव एवं आस-पास के गाँवों में बहुत विनाश किया। प्रशांत ने अपने परिवार एवं अन्य लोगों की सहायता करने का निर्णय लिया। उसने जवानों का एक समूह

संगठित किया। उन्होंने स्थानीय व्यापारी पर दबाव डाला कि वह भूख से मरते ग्रामीणों को चावल दे। उन्होंने आग जलाई और चावल पकाया, यद्यपि यह सड़ रहा था। उसका अगला कदम था कि उस स्थान से गंदगी, कूड़ा, पेशाब और तैरती हुई लाशें हटाई जाएं। जो बहुत से लोग घायल हो गए थे, उन्होंने उनके जखमों और टूटे अंगों की देखभाल की। पाँचवें दिन, मिलिट्री के एक हेलीकॉप्टर ने भोजन गिराया। मगर यह लौटकर नहीं आया। प्रशांत एवं अन्य लोगों ने हेलीकॉप्टर का ध्यान अपनी ओर आकर्षित करने के लिए एक योजना बनाई। उन्होंने बच्चों को कहा कि वे अपने पेट पर खाली बर्तन रखकर लेट जाएँ। ऐसा इसलिए किया गया कि वे हेलीकॉप्टरों को बताएं कि वे भूखे हैं। यह योजना काम कर गई और उसके बाद हेलिकॉप्टर ने नियमित रूप से भोजन गिराना आरंभ किया।

प्रशांत अनाथ बच्चों को लाया और उनके लिए एक आश्रय बनाया। उसने स्त्रियाँ को कहा कि वे उनकी देखभाल करें। मगर उसने देखा कि स्त्रियाँ और बच्चे गम में और गहरे डूबते जा रहे थे। एक गैर-सरकारी संस्था ने काम के बदले अनाज योजना आरंभ की। प्रशांत ने उन्हें मनाया कि वे इस योजना में शामिल हों। उसने अन्य स्वयं सेवकों को इस काम पर लगाया कि वे विधवाओं की अपना जीवन फिर से आरंभ करने में सहायता करें। अनाथ बच्चों को अपने ही समुदाय में फिर से बसाया गया।

यद्यपि उस बात को छः महीने बीत गए हैं जब चक्रवात ने भारी विनाश किया था, मगर गाँव की विधवाएँ एवं बच्चे अपने दुःख एवं आवश्यकता के समय में अभी भी प्रशांत की तलाश करते हैं।

Very Short Answer Type Important Questions

1. When did the cyclone hit Orissa ?

Ans. The cyclone hit Orissa on 27 October 1999.

2. Where was Prashant when the cyclone hit Orissa?

Ans. At that time he was in a small coastal town of Orissa, some eighteen kilometres from his village.

3. What was the name of Prashant's village?

Ans. The name of his village was Kalikuda.

4. Who met Prashant on his way back to the village?

Ans. He met two friends of his uncle on his way back to the village.

5. What had Prashant to push away on his way back to the village?

Ans. Prashant had to push away many human bodies, and carcasses of dogs, cattle and goats.

6. How did Prashant find his house when he reached his village?

Ans. He found only the remnants of the roof of his house.

7. What did Prashant found about children in the relief camp?

Ans. Prashant found that a large number of children had been orphaned.

8. How have the people of the community helped one another?

Ans. The people of the community helped one another with great co-operation.

9. How did Prashant feel when he reached his village?

Ans. His heart went cold when he reached his village.

10. How did Prashant travel back to his village from Ersama?

Ans. Prashant travelled on foot and swimming through the deep water back to his village.

11. How did people receive food in Prashant's village?

Ans. Food packets were dropped by helicopters.

Short Answer Type Questions (30 to 40 words)

1. Where were Prashant and his friends during the two days of the super cyclone? What did they live on? Where did they get their 'food' from?

Ans. The rainwater was entering the house during the super cyclone. So, Prashant and his friend's family remained on the roof of the house for two days. Two coconut trees had fallen on the roof of the house. Prashant and his friend's family lived on them. They got their food from these tender coconuts.

2. (i) Why was it difficult for Prashant to travel back to his village?

Ans. There was water everywhere. He had to use his stick to locate the road. At some places, it was waist deep and the progress was slow. Sometimes, he lost the road and had to swim. After some distance, he found two friends of his uncle. They decided to move ahead together. They had to push away many human bodies floating on the water.

(ii) "His heart went cold" when he reached his village. Why?

Ans. At last Prashant reached his village Kalikuda. His heart sank. His house was gone. His family was nowhere. In order to look for his family, Prashant went to the Red Cross Shelter. Fortunately, his family was alive. They were very glad to see Prashant. He came to know that eighty-six lives were lost in his village and all the ninety-six houses had been washed away.

Q.3. What were the two important tasks Prashant did after deciding to be the leader of the village?

Ans. The first task was that he organised a group of youths and elders to make the merchant give them rice. They succeeded in their mission. Secondly, he made a team of youth volunteers. They cleaned the shelter of the dirt, urine, vomit and floating carcasses.

Q.4. How did the villagers make the helicopters drop regular quantities of the flood?

Ans. Prashant and others devised a plan to attract the attention of the helicopters. They deputed children to lie there with empty utensils on their stomachs. This was done to communicate to the helicopters that they were hungry. The scheme worked and the helicopters started dropping food regularly.

Q.5. How did Prashant and his friend's family pass two days of the super cyclone?

Ans. As the flood water was rising, Prashant and his friend's family sat on the open roof of the house. They froze in the cold and continuous rain. Two coconut trees had fallen on the roof. They proved to be a blessing in disguise. They survived by eating the tender coconuts.

Q6. What havoc had the super cyclone wrecked in the life of the people of Orissa?

Ans. The super cyclone was a devastating storm which washed the houses away and destroyed hundreds of villages. It killed thousands of people and uprooted a large number of trees. There were dead bodies all around. People became homeless and many children who had lost their parents became orphans. This crazed destruction continued for the next thirty-six hours. The condition seemed grim after the super cyclone.

Q7. How has Prashant, a teenager, been able to help the people of his village?

Ans. On reaching his village, Prashant found deplorable conditions all around him. He had leadership qualities so he took the initiative to rehabilitate people. He made a team of young volunteers and cleaned urine, filth, vomit and floating carcasses. His team was fully dedicated to serving others. He persuaded grief-stricken women to look after children. In this way, he became a ray of hope for all.

Q8. How did Prashant spend his time during the first two days of the super cyclone?

Ans. When the super cyclone hit coastal Orissa, Prashant was at his friend's house with neck-deep water. They spent two days on the roof of the house and lived on tender coconuts of those two trees which had fallen on the roof.

Q9. What did Prashant see when he reached his village?

Ans. When Prashant reached his village, his heart turned cold. Houses had been washed away. Only roofs were lying on the ground. The belongings were mixed up and twisted. The tree branches appeared above water. His maternal grandmother was the first woman Prashant saw in the crowd at the Red Cross shelter.

Q10. How did Prashant manage food for village people?

Ans. A military helicopter dropped some parcels but it didn't return. The youth task force of the village asked the children to lie in the sand with empty utensils on their stomach. They were successful in telling the helicopters that they were hungry. So the helicopter dropped regular food and other supplies to them.

Q11. How did the super cyclone affect the life of the people of Orissa?

Ans. Super cyclone in Orissa in October 1999 proved very devastating. Heavy and incessant rain filled the darkness. Ancient trees were uprooted and crashed to the earth. People and houses were washed away.

Q12. What did Prashant do for orphaned children?

Ans. Prashant found that a large number of children had been orphaned. He brought them together and put up a polythene shelter for them. He organised cricket matches for children. Prashant tried to set up their children in new foster families made up of childless widows and children.

Q13. Do you think Prashant is a good leader? Do you think young people can get together to help people during natural calamities?

Ans. Undoubtedly, Prashant is a good leader. He has all the qualities of a leader. He has a special quality of taking initiatives. His vision is quite clear. He faces adverse circumstances courageously. He is a source of energy for others and has great motivational power. I think that youth is power. This power can be used to assist society during natural disasters. Whatever job is assigned to the youth in such circumstances they perform their duty with full spirit.

Q14. How have the people of the community helped one another? What role do the women of Kalikuda play during these days?

Ans. Prashant took the initiative and mobilised everyone to help one another. In this time of distress, the people of the community joined hands together and started relief work. Women started working in the Food for Work Programme and looked after the orphans.

Q15. What happened in the evening when Prashant was at his friend's house in Ersama?

Ans. In the evening when Prashant was at his friend's house, a dark and menacing storm gathered. Winds started blowing at great speed. Heavy and continuous rains filled the darkness. Ancient trees were uprooted and crushed to death. The angry water rushed in his friend's house, neck deep.

Q16. Where had Prashant gone on 27th October 1999? Why?

Ans. Prashant had gone to block headquarters of Ersama on 27th October 1999. He had gone there to spend a day with a friend. Ersama is a small town in coastal Orissa.

Q17. How did the two fallen coconut trees prove a blessing in disguise for Prashant and his friend's family?

Ans. The cyclonic storm with a high wind velocity of 350 km per hour uprooted many huge and old trees. Two coconut trees had fallen on the roof of their house. This proved to be a blessing in disguise for them. The tender coconuts from the trees kept the trapped family from starving for several days.

Q18. How were the orphans and the widows resettled?

Ans. Prashant had deep sympathy for the flood victims. He could not tolerate the deplorable condition of women and children. He decided to get them engaged. So, he persuaded the women to work in the food-for-work programme. He made a special arrangement for the children to keep them busy.

Q19. After becoming the leader of his village, Prashant performed two important tasks. What were they?

Ans. Prashant was a courageous boy. He decided to improve the condition of the village. He became the leader of the village and started work. First of all, he organised the youths and elders of the village into a group. They put pressure on the rich merchant to donate some rice for the poor. They also made the helicopters drop food for the hungry people.

Q20. Why do Prashant and other volunteers resist the plan to set up institutions for orphans and widows? What alternatives do they consider?

Ans. Prashant and other volunteers resisted the plan as they felt that it would not be proper to set up separate institutions for orphans and widows. The group of volunteers was of the opinion that in these institutions children would not be able to get love and widows would suffer from stigma and loneliness and isolation. The group decided to rehabilitate them in their own community. New families were made and the childless widows took care of the orphans.

Important Long

ESSAY TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Describe the destruction caused by the super cyclone as narrated in the story *Weathering the Storm in Ersama'.

Ans. On 27th October 1999, Prashant went to meet one of his friends who lived in Ersama. The place was eighteen kilometres from his village. In the evening, a super cyclone came. Winds beat against the houses with great fury. There was heavy and continuous rain. Houses and people were washed away in the flood. His friend's house was made of bricks and cement. It was strong enough to survive the wind blowing at 350 km per hour. hut one uprooted tree fell on their house and damaged some part of its roof and walls. To escape the waters rising in the house, Prashant and his friend's family took refuge on the roof. For the next two days, Prashant sat huddled with his friend's family on the rooftop. They froze in cold and rain. In the early morning, Prashant saw the destruction caused by the cyclone. There was a sheet of water everywhere. Only parts of cemented houses were still visible. All other houses had been washed away. Even huge trees had fallen. Bloated dead-bodies of animals and human beings were floating everywhere.

Q.2. Describe how Prashant reached his village after the cyclone?

Ans. The destruction caused by the cyclone and the waves of the ocean continued for the next thirty-six hours. Two days later, the rain ceased and the rainwater slowly began to recede. Prashant was worried about his family. He took a long stick and started on the eighteen kilometres long and difficult journey to his village. There was water everywhere. He had to use his stick to locate the road. At places, it was waist deep and the progress was slow. Sometimes, he lost the road and had to swim. After some distance, he found two friends of his uncle. They decided to move ahead together. They had to push away many human bodies floating on the water. There were also carcasses of dogs, goats and cattle. In every village they passed, they could barely see a house standing. He feared that his family could not have survived the cyclone. At last, he reached his village Kalikuda. His heart sank. His house was gone. His family was nowhere. In order to look for his family, Prashant went to the Red Cross Shelter. Fortunately, his family was alive. They were very glad to see Prashant. He came to know that eighty-six lives were lost in his village and all the ninety-six houses had been washed away.

Q.3. Describe how Prashant helped himself and others at the time of the natural calamity?

Ans. The cyclone caused a lot of damage in Prashant's village and surrounding areas. Prashant decided to help his own family and the others. He organised a group of youths. They pressurized the local merchant to give rice to the starving villagers. They burnt a fire and cooked the rice, although it was rotten; His next step was to clean the place of filth, dirt, urine and floating dead bodies. They tended the wounds and fractures of many who had been injured. On the fifth day, a military helicopter dropped food. But it did not return. Prashant and others devised a plan to attract the attention of the helicopters. They deputed children to lie there with empty utensils on their stomachs. This was done to communicate

to the helicopters that they were hungry. The scheme worked and the helicopters started dropping food regularly.

The Prashant brought the orphaned children and made a shelter for them. He asked the woman to look after them. But he found that women and children were sinking deeper and deeper into their grief. A non-government organization had started food for work programme. Prashant persuaded them to join it. He eng..get other volunteers to help widows start their lives again. The orphaned children were resettled in their own community.

Q4. Prashant did not help his family members, but he helped the whole community during the cyclone. What is your opinion on this matter?

Ans. On reaching his village, Prashant found deplorable conditions all around him. He had leadership qualities so he took the initiative to rehabilitate people. He made a team of young volunteers and cleaned urine, filth, vomit and floating carcasses. His team was fully dedicated to serving others. He persuaded grief-stricken women to look after children. In this way, he became a ray of hope for all. Undoubtedly, Prashant is a good leader. He has all the qualities of a leader. He has a special quality of taking initiatives. His vision is quite clear. He faces adverse circumstances courageously. He is a source of energy for others and has great motivational power. I think that youth is power. This power can be used to assist society during natural disasters. Whatever job is assigned to the youth in such circumstances they perform their duty with full spirit.

Q5. The widows and orphans of village Kalikuda remember Prashant's help after the cyclone with gratitude. Explain how Prashant helped them in their darkest hour of grief.

Ans. After the devastation, the shelter was established at Kalikuda. Around 2500 people were there. The whole atmosphere was grimy. The people survived on green coconuts. The men, the women and the children looked helpless. They were filled with fear and groaning for the dead. Prashant took the initiative and organised many groups. They could succeed in their efforts and got rice to eat. They got relief packages sent through helicopters. There was filth, vomit, urine. The floating carcasses could be seen all around. Life seemed slow there. The people there passed their time in gossiping and performing several activities. The situation of the shelter showed a clear picture of suffering humanity.

Q6. Within two days of the cyclone, Prashant left Ersama for his village Kalikuda so that he can know the fate of his family. Was it right to do so?

Ans. After two days when the rain ceased and the rainwater began to recede slowly, Prashant decided to visit his village. He had to face many difficulties on his way. He equipped himself with a long stick and started his journey. The village was 18 kilometres away from this place. He kept moving ahead through the swollen flood waters. He used his stick to estimate the depth of the water. When

he reached the village his heart went cold on seeing the little pieces of roofs floating in the water. After a while, he could see his grandmother. She rushed and hugged him. Later on, the other members of his family were found in the Red Cross Shelter.

Q7. During natural calamities, women and children need more protection. Explain Prashant's role in organising relief measures for women and children during the storm in Ersama.

Ans. The scene after the storm and heavy rain was quite tragic. There were dead bodies and uprooted trees all around. A brown sheet of water covered everything. There was water everywhere. The rain ceased after two days but water could be seen as far as the eyes could gaze. Because of heavy rain, there was little hope for the betterment of the flood victims. Prashant tackled all these problems very carefully. First of all, he owned the responsibility of a leader of the group. He organized a group of youths and elders that compelled merchants to part with a good quota of the rice. They collected wood, cooked rice and fed the people. Then he arranged a team of youth to clean the surroundings of the shelter. They looked after the wounded people. He persuaded women to look after the orphans. To bring people out of their grief he organized games for the children. For the same reason, he convinced women to take part in Food-for-work programs. He became the prime example of courage and compassion.

Q8. Do you think adversity or crises bring people closer? How? Explain with reference to the lesson 'Weathering the Storm in Ersama'.

Ans. Man is a social animal. Despite food and other common needs, he cannot live without company and love of his near or dear ones. In adversity or crises, it is noticed that they come forward to help one another without any previous ill-

feeling for one another. Adversity or crisis brings people together. There is a bond of humanity. The victims of the cyclone in Erasama helped one another. They worked together during this resettlement. They took care of orphans and widows. Prashant managed to unite them and work for one another. Thus in the hour of grief, the people of the community joined hands under the leadership of Prashant. They came forward to help one another. Prashant brought the survivors together and formed a youth task force. The youth took the charge and volunteered themselves for cleaning the shelters of filth, urine and vomit.

Q9. The future of a country depends upon the power of youth. Explain how Prashant organised the youth in Ersama to help the cyclone-affected people.

Ans. Prashant became a leader of the village. He sent a delegation to the merchants and got the full quota of rice for the people taking shelter in the shed. Then he organised a team of volunteers to clean the shelter. On the fifth day of the camp, One Military helicopter dropped food packets but did not return again. Then the youth task force was set up. The group debuted the children to lie on the floor. They had the empty utensils on their stomachs. By that, they were able to communicate with the passing helicopters that they were hungry. Finally, the helicopters dropped a good quantity of food there.

Value Based Questions and Answers of WEATHERING THE STORM IN ERSAMA

QUICK REVIEW OF THE CHAPTER

1. The heavy cyclone hit Orissa in

(A) 1998

(B) 1999

(C) 2000

(D) 2001

Ans. (B) 1999

2. Where was Prashant when the cyclone hit his village?

(A) at the block headquarter about 18 k.ms from his village

(B) in his village

(C) in another stage

(D) none of the above

Ans. (A) at the block headquarter about 18 k.ms from his village

3. How did Prashant reach his village?

(A) travelling on foot
water

(B) swimming through

(C) both (A) and (B)

(D) none of the above

Ans. (C) both (A) and (B)

4. What did Prashant see in the flood water floating?

(A) dead bodies of men, women and children
goats and cattle

(B) carcasses of dogs,

(C) household possessions

(D) all of the above

Ans. (D) all of the above

5. How much distance was covered by Prashant through flood water?

(A) Eighteen kilometres (B) Eighty kilometres

(C) Hundred kilometres (D) Two hundred kilometres

Ans. (A) Eighteen kilometres

6. The name of Prashant's village is

(A) kalikuda

(B) ersama

(C) palikuda
above

(D) none of the

Ans. (A) kalikuda

7. Could Prashant meet his family when he reached his village?

(A) Yes

(B) No

(C) Maybe

(D) May not be

Ans. (B) No

8. How long did it rain continuously in Ersama?

(A) for 24 hours

(B) for 36 hours

(C) for 48 hours
above

(D) none of the

Ans. (B) for 36 hours

9. What calamity hit Orissa?

(A) cyclone

(B) earthquake

(C) drought

(D) land sliding

Ans. (A) cyclone