Agenda 3(d)

Disaster Related Statistics

Rapid population growth in Bangladesh is implying increasing demands for basic requirements of life such as water, food, shelter, clothes, medicare, education, security etc. In addition to this, frequent floods, cyclones, tidal surges, droughts occur almost every year causing colossal damage to lives and properties which have represented Bangladesh as a disaster-prone country. To meet the growing demand of the vast population and to cope with the devastation of natural disasters, the economy must grow faster in a sustainable basis by proper utilization of natural, human and other resources.

Natural resources such as land and water have a dominant role in income and employment generation as these constitute the two major inevitable physical inputs required for crop production. Thus, these have linked with economic function and environmental and natural resources. A rich bio-diversity with land and water are making the advantages of directly consuming some of the resources (subsistence fishing, hunting and gathering activities). Specific ecological system such as forest, water bodies and wetlands play a major role in the preservation of bio-diversity of our country.

The requirement of the increasing population can be met by using both renewable and nonrenewable resources of the country. It may be recalled that non-renewable energy like oil, gas, mineral resources are extracted to meet the growing demand of the people and there is a possibility of getting these resources exhausted in case of over exploitation and rapid population growth. In this context, alternative sources of energy (renewable resources) can be the solution of energy shortage, even though it has some limitations and cannot cope with the growing demand if proper attention is not given for sustainable growth of consumer goods and services.

It is evident that our unplanned economic growth in the past has increased environmental degradation and adversely affected carrying capacity and resilience of the environment. The country thus currently emphasizes on economic development that cannot be effective on a sustained basis if the quality of the major environmental elements like air, water, land and biota are restored sustainable which have started deteriorating because of increased economic activities. To sustain higher economic growth and standard of living, the nation thus must give greater attention to restoration of environmental ingredients principally towards ecologically sustainable development. Monitoring, evaluation and implementation of environmental issues are, therefore, the essential requirement to ensure sustainable development for Bangladesh.

The collecting the statistical information about various environmental segments of the country and the entire globe to some extent on a regular basis, therefore BBS has undertaken Capacity Building Project of Bangladesh government. As a result of this, United Nations in collaboration with its other agencies like United Nation Statistical Office (UNSTAT), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) developed a framework known as United Nations Framework for Development of Environmental Statistics (UN-FDES) in 1984 which was updated in 2013. The revised and updated framework has recommended a list of environment statistics that a country needs to collect and maintain. Following the broad guidelines of UN-FDES, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics prepared a framework in 2017 for compilation of environmental statistics' BBS also prepared the Bangladesh Environment Statistics Framework (BESF).

The objective of BESF is to provide with a general understanding and guidelines for generating data for environment statistics and to identify poverty environment nexus. For the initial step for environmental economic accounts this compendium has been prepared using secondary and primary data. Besides, BBS has conducted Bangladesh Disaster related Statistics 2015: Climate change and natural disaster perspectives. For achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) BBS is also planning to have more disaster related statistics.