

# Food Security in India

## Fastrack« Revision

- ▶ Food security means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times. It depends on the Public Distribution System (PDS) and government vigilance and action at times when the security is threatened.
- ▶ The 1995 World Food Summit declared that, Food Security at the individual, household, regional, national and global level exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
- ▶ Food security has the following dimensions:
  - **Availability** of food, means food production within the country, food imports and the previous years' stock in government granaries.
  - **Accessibility**, means that food is within the reach of every person.
  - **Affordability**, means that an individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one's dietary needs.
- ▶ Food security is needed in a country to ensure food at all times. It is all the more important during a calamity. Due to natural calamity, like drought, flood, tsunami, etc., total production of foodgrains decreases. It creates a shortage of food in the affected areas.
- ▶ Due to shortage of food, the prices go up. At high prices, some people cannot afford to buy food and in may cause a situation of starvation.
- ▶ Food insecure people are disproportionately large in some regions of the country, such as the states of Uttar Pradesh (Eastern and South-Eastern parts), Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. This is because these states are either economically backward or are prone to natural disasters.
- ▶ Hunger is another aspect of indicating food insecurity. Hunger has both, chronic and seasonal dimensions.
  - **Chronic hunger** is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and quality. Poor people suffer from chronic hunger due to low income and inability to survive.
  - **Seasonal hunger** is related to seasonal cycles of food growing and harvesting. This is prevalent in rural areas because of the seasonal nature of agricultural activities and in urban areas because of the casual labourers.

### Knowledge BOOSTER

*The FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production, at a pre-determined price, which is referred to as 'Minimum Support Price'.*



### Knowledge BOOSTER

*The most devastating famine that occurred in India was the Famine of Bengal in 1943. The Famine killed 30 lakh people in the province of Bengal. The agricultural labourers, fishermen, casual labourers, etc., were the most affected in the famine.*



- ▶ A massive starvation might taken a turn of famine. A famine is characterised by widespread deaths due to starvation and epidemics caused by forced use of contaminated water or decaying food and loss of body resistance due to weakening from starvation.
- ▶ Although a large section of people suffer from food and nutrition insecurity in India, the worst affected groups are landless people, traditional artisans, petty self-employed, beggars and SCs, STs and OBCs. They are referred to as food insecure people.
- ▶ After independence, Indian policy makers adopted all measures to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains. It started after the Green Revolution which increased wheat production in July 1968.
- ▶ India has become self-sufficient in foodgrains during the last thirty years because of a variety of crops grown all over the country. The availability of foodgrains in the country has further been ensured with a carefully designed food security system by the government. This system has the following two components:
  - **Buffer Stock:** It is the stock of foodgrains, namely wheat and rice, procured by the government through Food Corporation of India (FCI). The FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops which is called Minimum Support Price (MSP). The purchased foodgrains are stored in granaries to distribute them in deficit areas at a price lower than the market price, known as the issue price.







## Knowledge BOOSTER

Best rate of growth was achieved in UP and MP  
Foodgrain production reached an all time high  
of 1 and 30.21 million tonnes in 2015-16.

- **Public Distribution System (PDS):** The food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer sections of the society. This is called the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- The PDS has not been effective. PDS dealers are sometimes found resorting to malpractices like diverting grains to open markets to get better margin, selling poor quality grains at ration shops, irregular opening of shops, etc. This has proved to be a big problem.
- Three important food intervention programmes were introduced, as reported by NSSO, in the mid-1970s to ensure food security. The programmes were namely PDS, ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services, introduced in 1975), and FFW (Food for Work, programme introduced in 1977-78).
- The National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for food and nutritional security at affordable prices and enables people to live a life with self-respect. Under this Act, around 75 Per cent of rural population and 50 Per cent of urban population have been categorised as eligible households for food security.
- In 1992, Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was introduced in 1,700 blocks in the country. From June 1997, in a renewed attempt, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced to adopt the principle of

targeting the 'poor in all areas' with a lower issue price for foodgrains for them compared to the price paid by non-poor people.

- In 2000, two special schemes, viz., Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and the Annapurna Scheme, with special target sections were launched. The functioning of these two schemes was linked with the existing network of PDS.

## Knowledge BOOSTER

AAY was launched in December 2000. Under the scheme, one crore of the poorest among the BPL families covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System were identified. 35 kgs of foodgrains were made available to each eligible family at a highly subsidised rate of ₹2 per kg for wheat and ₹3 per kg for rice.

- In addition to government, there are various cooperatives and NGOs also working towards ensuring food security in the country. These cooperatives are particularly active in the Southern and Western parts of the country.
- The following cooperatives are worth mentioning:
  - About 94 per cent of all fair price shops running in Tamil Nadu are being run by the cooperatives.
  - In Delhi, Mother Dairy is making strides in provision of milk and vegetables to the consumers at controlled rate decided by the Government of India.
  - Amul is another success story of milk and milk products in Gujarat.
  - Grain Bank Programme, set up by Academy of Development Science (ADS), Maharashtra, is acknowledged as a successful and innovative food security intervention.



## Practice Exercise



### Multiple Choice Questions

Q 1. What does food security mean?

- Availability of food
- Accessibility of food
- Availability and accessibility of food to all at all times
- Availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all at all the times

Q 2. Which one of these is not a valid reason for food security in India?

- Overpopulation
- Hoarding and black marketing
- Foodgrains stores are overflowing with foodgrains
- None of the above

Q 3. In which of the following states the most devastating famine of India in the year 1943 occurred?

- Bengal
- Odisha
- Bihaar
- Uttar Pradesh

Q 4. Yellow card is issued to which group of people?

- Unemployed people
- People below poverty line
- Rural people
- All of the above

Q 5. Baran district is located in which state where starvation deaths have been reported?

- Odisha
- Gujarat
- Rajasthan
- Bengal

Q 6. Seasonal hunger is commonly found in:

- Urban areas
- Rural areas
- Tribal areas
- All of these

Q 7. Which of the following crops are related to Green Revolution?

- Wheat, Rice
- Cotton, Bajra
- Maize, Rice
- Bajra, Wheat





CI stands for:

- a. Foreign Cooperation with India
- b. Food Corporation of India
- c. Fossil Corporation of India
- d. Food Coming to India

Q 9. Who released a special stamp in July 1968?

- a. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
- b. Rajiv Gandhi
- c. Indira Gandhi
- d. None of the above

Q 10. Study the picture given below and answer the question that follows:



Where are the people queuing up?

- a. A grocery shop
- b. A ration shop
- c. An NGO distributing grains
- d. None of the above

Q 11. Farmers are paid a pre-announced price by the government for their crops. It is called:

- a. Issue price
- b. Invested price
- c. Market price
- d. Minimum support price

Q 12. The minimum guaranteed price at which the government offers to purchase any quantity is known as:

- a. Procurement price
- b. Minimum support price
- c. Issue price
- d. Market price

Q 13. The price at which the government offers to sell foodgrains lower than the market price is known as:

- a. Procurement price
- b. Minimum support price
- c. Issue price
- d. Market price

Q 14. Buffer stock is created to:

- a. distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas
- b. maintain equal distribution of food
- c. avoid shortage of food
- d. All of the above

Q 15. Buffer stock is the stock of foodgrains procured by the government through:

- a. IFCI
- b. FCI
- c. IDBI
- d. FICCI

Q 16. The measure(s) adopted by the government of India to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains is/are:

- a. use of HYV seeds
- b. use of chemical fertilizers
- c. new scientific methods of farming
- d. All of the above

Q 17. In which part of the country, grain banks have been set up by the NGO's?

- a. Gujarat
- b. Haryana
- c. Punjab
- d. Maharashtra

Q 18. Match the following:

(Name of Scheme)	(Year of Introduction)
1. Revamped Public Distribution System	A. 1997
2. Targeted Public Distribution System	B. 2000
3. Annapurna Scheme	C. 1992

- |      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 1    | 2 | 3 |
| a. C | A | B |
| b. A | B | C |
| c. C | B | A |
| d. B | A | C |

Q 19. In which year National Food for Work Programme was launched?

- a. November 14, 2004
- b. November 14, 2006
- c. November 24, 2004
- d. November 24, 2006


Q 20. RPDS stands for:

- a. Revamped Public Distribution System
- b. Rationing Public Distribution System
- c. Reconstructed Public Distribution System
- d. None of the above

Q 21. Antyodaya card is a kind of ration card meant for:

- a. Poorest of the poor people
- b. Average income people
- c. Below Poverty Line people
- d. All of the above

### Knowledge BOOSTER

 Antyodaya card is a ration card for the people below the poverty line. Those having this card are entitled to 35 kilograms of foodgrain every month.

Q 22. Identify the incorrect statement.

- a. There are about 5.5 lakh ration shops all over the country.
- b. Rationing was introduced in India in the 1940s against the backdrop of the Bengal famine.
- c. Antyodaya Anna Yojana was launched in the year 2002.
- d. None of the above





Q. When was the 'Integrated Child Development Scheme' introduced?  
 a. 1978      b. 1975      c. 1980      d. 1972

Q. Which of the following is not a food intervention programme?

- a. ICDS      b. PDS  
 c. Food for Work      d. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

Q 25. Which organisation has facilitated a network of NGO's for setting up grain banks in Maharashtra?

- a. Amul  
 b. Mother Dairy  
 c. Academy of Development Science  
 d. Central Government

Q 26. Which among the following schemes was initiated for the poor in all areas?

- a. TPDS      b. RPDS  
 c. AAY      d. All of these

### Knowledge BOOSTER



Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced from June 1997 to adopt the principle of targeting the 'poor in all areas'.

Q 27. The Mother Dairy is an important cooperative in:

- a. Gujarat      b. Punjab  
 c. Haryana      d. Delhi

Q 28. Name the cooperative that provides milk, vegetable and pulses at controlled rate decided by government of Delhi.

- a. Amul      b. Kendriya Bhandar  
 c. Mother Dairy      d. None of these

Q 29. In which state of India the famous cooperative Amul is situated?

- a. Gujarat      b. Maharashtra  
 c. Delhi      d. MP

Q 30. Which cooperative has brought about the White Revolution in the country?

- a. Amul      b. Mother Dairy  
 c. ADS      d. None of these

Q 31. Which of the following statements is not correct about the Public Distribution System?

- a. The PDS dealers divert the grain to open market to get a better margin.  
 b. They sell poor quality grains at ration shops.  
 c. They open shops irregularly.  
 d. They sell good quality grains at ration shops at a slightly higher price.

Q 32. In which part of the country grain banks have been set up by NGOs?

- a. Gujarat      b. Haryana  
 c. Punjab      d. Maharashtra

Q 33. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): Food security exists when all people, at all times have physical, social, and economic

access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences.

Statement (II): Food security is a multi-dimensional concept that involves not only the availability of food but also access to food, utilisation of food and stability of food supply.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.  
 b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.  
 c. Both statements are incorrect.  
 d. Both statements are correct.

Q 34. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): The National Food Security Act (NFSA) aims to provide food security to all people in India.

Statement (II): The NFSA entitles poor households to receive 6kgs of foodgrains per person per month subsidised prices under the PDS.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.  
 b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.  
 c. Both statements are incorrect.  
 d. Both statements are correct.



### Assertion & Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 35-42): In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
 c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.  
 d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 35. Assertion (A): Various cooperatives and NGOs are working towards providing food security in India.

Reason (R): Grain Bank Programme in Maharashtra is a successful and innovative food security intervention.

Q 36. Assertion (A): A section of people in India are still without food.

Reason (R): There is poor monitoring of the schemes resulting in some people being without food while the grains are being eaten by rats in the FCI godowns.

Q 37. Assertion (A): Buffer stock is created in order to distribute foodgrains in deficit areas.

Reason (R): Buffer stock helps to resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions.

Q 38. Assertion (A): Hunger is an important aspect indicating food insecurity.



Reason (R): If a person is hungry for either part of the year or throughout the year, this indicates food insecurity.

Assertion (A): Food security is needed in a country to ensure food at all times.

Reason (R): Food security is seen in the social composition of Indian society.

Q 40. Assertion (A): India has adopted various measures to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains.

Reason (R): Foodgrains availability in adverse conditions has been ensured by the government through a food security system.

Q 41. Assertion (A): Agriculture is seasonal and low paying activity.

Reason (R): India has become self-sufficient in foodgrains due to a variety of crops grown all over the country.

Q 42. Assertion (A): Green Revolution has made India self-sufficient in foodgrains.

Reason (R): India adopted a new strategy in agriculture which resulted in the Green Revolution especially in the production of wheat and rice.

### Answers

- |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d)  | 2. (c)  | 3. (a)  | 4. (b)  | 5. (c)  |
| 6. (b)  | 7. (a)  | 8. (b)  | 9. (c)  | 10. (b) |
| 11. (d) | 12. (b) | 13. (c) | 14. (a) | 15. (b) |
| 16. (d) | 17. (d) | 18. (a) | 19. (a) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (a) | 22. (c) | 23. (b) | 24. (d) | 25. (c) |
| 26. (a) | 27. (d) | 28. (c) | 29. (a) | 30. (a) |
| 31. (d) | 32. (c) | 33. (d) | 34. (a) | 35. (b) |
| 36. (a) | 37. (b) | 38. (b) | 39. (c) | 40. (b) |
| 41. (b) | 42. (a) |         |         |         |



### Source Based Questions

#### Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The food insecure people are disproportionately large in some regions of the country, such as economically backward states with high incidence of poverty, tribal and remote areas, regions more prone to natural disasters, etc. In fact, the states of Uttar Pradesh (Eastern and South-eastern parts), Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account for largest number of food insecure people in the country. Hunger is another aspect indicating food insecurity. Hunger is not just an expression of poverty, it brings about poverty. The attainment of food security therefore involves eliminating

current hunger and reducing the risks of future hunger. Hunger has chronic and seasonal dimensions. Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and/or quality. Poor people suffer from chronic hunger because of their very low income and in turn inability to buy food even for survival. Seasonal hunger is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting. This is prevalent in rural areas because of the seasonal nature of agricultural activities and in urban areas because of casual labourers, e.g., there is less work for casual construction labourers during the rainy season. This type of hunger exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year.

Q 1. Which of the following states have largest number of food insecure people in the country?

- a. Bihar                                      b. Jharkhand  
c. West Bengal                              d. All of these

Q 2. How can food security be attained?

- a. By eliminating current hunger  
b. By reducing the risks of future hunger  
c. Both a. and b.  
d. By removing the incidence of poverty

Q 3. Why do poor people suffer from chronic hunger?

- a. Inability to get work  
b. Due to very low income  
c. Inability to buy food even for survival  
d. Both b. and c.

Q 4. Which type of hunger is prevalent in rural areas?

- a. Chronic hunger                              b. Seasonal hunger  
c. Physical hunger                              d. Emotional hunger

Q 5. In which of the following areas seasonal hunger occurs because of casual labourers?

- a. Rural areas                                      b. Urban areas  
c. Hilly areas                                      d. Desert regions

Q 6. Who are the people more prone to food insecurity in urban areas?

- a. Casual labourers  
b. Traditional artisans  
c. Petty self-employed workers  
d. Destitutes including beggars

### Answers

1. (d)    2. (c)    3. (d)    4. (b)    5. (b)    6. (a)

#### Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Buffer Stock is the stock of foodgrains, namely wheat and rice, procured by the government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The





purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their produce. This price is called Minimum Support Price (MSP). The MSP is declared by the government every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to farmers for raising the production of these crops. The purchased foodgrains are stored in granaries. Do you know why this buffer stock is created by the government? This is done to distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of the society at a price lower than the market price also known as Issue Price. This also helps resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during the periods of calamity.

**Q 1. Why is buffer stock created?**

- To distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas.
- To maintain equal distribution of food.
- To avoid shortage of food.
- All of the above

**Q 2. Through which of the following organisations buffer stock is procured by the government?**

- Food Corporation of India
- Targeted Public Distribution System
- World Food Programme
- Food and Agriculture Organisation

**Q 3. Which of the following is declared by the government every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to the farmers for raising the production of crops?**

- Fair Price
- Minimum Support Price
- Issue Price
- None of the above

**Q 4. From where does FCI purchase foodgrains?**

- From the market.
- From the surplus production of the farmers in states.
- From the buffer stock at minimum support price.
- From the fair price shops.

**Q 5. Identify the way(s) in which buffer stock is used by the government to ensure food security in the country.**

- It stores the purchased grains in godowns all over the country.
- The government procures foodgrains from the farmers after paying them a pre-announced price for their produce in minimum support price.
- The food is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poor sections of the society at price lower than the market price.
- All of the above

**Q 6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:**

**Assertion (A):** FCI helps to resolve the problem of shortage of food during the periods of calamity.

**Reason (R):** FCI performs effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the farmers.

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Answers**

1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (d) 6. (b)



**Very Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q 1. Define food security.**

**Ans.** According to 1995, World Food Summit, 'Food Security at the individual, household, regional, national and global level exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.'

**Q 2. What are the three dimensions of food security?**

**Ans.** The three dimensions of food security are:

- Availability of food.
- Accessibility of food.
- Affordability of food.

**Q 3. What do you understand by accessibility and affordability of food?**

**Ans.** Accessibility of food means that food is within the reach of everybody.

Affordability of food means that people can buy enough food for their requirement.

**Q 4. How many people were killed in the Great Famine of Bengal in 1943?**

**Ans.** The Great Famine of Bengal in 1943 killed 30 lakh people in the province of Bengal.

**Q 5. Who were affected the most by the famine of Bengal?**

**Ans.** The following were affected the most by the famine of Bengal:

- The agricultural labourers.
- Fisherman.
- Transport workers.
- Casual labourers.

**Q 6. Write two dimensions of hunger.**

**Ans.** The two dimensions of hunger are:

- Chronic hunger.
- Seasonal hunger.

**Q 7. What is meant by chronic hunger?**

**Ans.** Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and quality.



**Seasonal hunger is commonly found in which areas of India?**

Seasonal hunger is prevalent in rural and tribal areas, as the population is mostly dependent on agriculture. In urban areas, casual labour is subject to this problem.

**Q 9. From which places of Odisha are starvation deaths reported?**

**Ans.** Starvation deaths are reported from Kalahandi and Kashipur in Odisha, as these areas are prone to famine-like conditions on a regular basis.

**Q 10. Name any one group who is the sufferer of food insecurity.**

**Ans.** Beggars, casual labourers, etc., are categories of people having an uncertain income. They are sufferers of food insecurity.

**Q 11. Which are the people more prone to food insecurity?**

**Ans.** The people who are more prone to food insecurity are:

- (i) The SCs, STs and some sections of the OBCs who have either poor land-base or very low land productivity.
- (ii) The people affected by natural disasters who have to migrate to other areas in search of work.
- (iii) A large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under the age of 5 years.

**Q 12. Which states are more food insecure in India?**

**Ans.** The states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are more food insecure in India.

**Q 13. What are the two components of food security system of India?**

**Ans.** The two components of food security system of India are:

- (i) Buffer Stock.
- (ii) Public Distribution System.

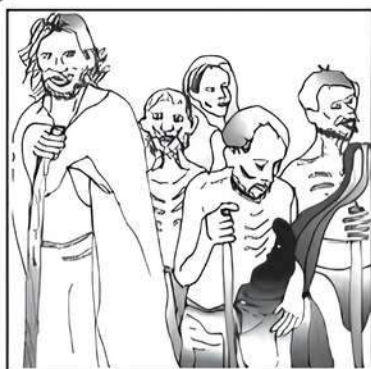
**Q 14. Who procures buffer stock?**

**Ans.** Food Corporation of India procures buffer stock.

**Q 15. When is the Minimum Support Price (MSP) declared by the government?**

**Ans.** The MSP is declared by the government just before the sowing season to motivate the farmers to grow more.

**Q 16. What do you see in the following picture? Explain briefly.**



**Ans.** In above picture, we saw the starvation victims of the famine arriving at a relief centre. Even their bones can be seen below their skin because of malnutrition.

**Q 17. 'The green revolution has made India self-sufficient in foodgrains.' Substantiate your answer with any two reasons.**

**Ans.** Yes, the green revolution has made India self-sufficient in foodgrains. Because of:

- (i) India has adopted a new strategy in the field of agriculture.
- (ii) Highly increased use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides.



## Short Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. Explain briefly the dimensions of food security.**

**Ans.** Food security has the following dimensions:

- (i) Availability of food, meaning food production within the country, food imports and the previous years' stock in government granaries.
- (ii) Accessibility, meaning that food is within the reach of every person.
- (iii) Affordability, meaning that an individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one's dietary needs.

**Q 2. Differentiate between seasonal hunger and chronic hunger.**

**Ans.** Differences between seasonal hunger and chronic hunger are:

S. No.	Basis of Difference	Seasonal Hunger	Chronic Hunger
(i)	Result	It is the <u>result of the time lag in food sowing and harvesting.</u>	It is a <u>consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quality and/or quantity.</u>
(ii)	Cause	The basic cause of seasonal hunger is <u>lack of work or job.</u>	The basic cause of chronic hunger is <u>very low income.</u>

**Q 3. 'Hunger is an important aspect indicating food insecurity.' Give an argument in favour of this statement along with its dimensions.**

**Ans.** Food security implies availability, accessibility and affordability of food at all times. Thus, if a person is hungry for either part of the year or throughout the year, this indicates food insecurity.

If the person is chronically hungry, then that person is not able to access an adequate quality or quantity of food at any time. If the person is seasonally hungry, that person is not able to avail adequate quality or quantity of food at certain times of the year.



**Why is food security essential? How does food security get affected during a natural calamity?**

Food security is essential to remove malnutrition, famine and widespread loss of life.

Food security gets affected during a natural calamity in the following ways:

- (i) During calamities, total production of foodgrains decreases.
- (ii) Low food production leads to shortage of food in the affected areas.
- (iii) Shortage of food results in rise of prices. At the high prices, some people cannot afford to buy food.
- (iv) If such a calamity happens in a very widespread area or is stretched over a longer time period, it causes a situation of starvation.
- (v) If there is a situation of massive starvation, it may take a turn of famine.

**Q 5. 'The food insecure people are disproportionately large in some regions of the country.' Explain.**

**Ans.** The given statement can be explained by the following points:

- (i) Economically backward states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and some parts of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra account for the largest number of food insecure people in the country.
- (ii) Tribal and remote areas are highly prone to poverty. Regions more prone to natural disasters are vulnerable to poverty. So, it can be concluded that food insecure people are disproportionately large in some regions of the country.

**Q 6. Explain the ways in which we can ensure food security in India?**

OR

**How is food security ensured in India?**

**Ans.** Following are the ways in which we can ensure food security in India:

- (i) By ensuring availability of enough food for all and at all the time.
- (ii) By ensuring that people have the capacity to buy food of acceptable quality all the time.
- (iii) By ensuring people's accessibility to food.

**Q 7. 'A section of people in India is still without food'. Justify the statement.**

**Ans.** Many poor families do not have enough money or income to buy food of acceptable quality. The government has created huge buffer stocks and has introduced many schemes to distribute foodgrains to the poor. But because of the inefficient working of the Public Distribution System, a large number

of people in India do not have access to two square meals a day.

The SCs, STs and some sections of the OBCs who have either poor land base or very low land productivity face food insecurity. In urban areas also, there is less work for casual construction labour during the rainy season. During this period, people hardly manage to buy their food.

**Q 8. What has our government done to provide food security to the poor? Discuss any two schemes launched by the government.**

**Ans.** The government has ensured food security for the poor people by creating buffer stock and implementing an efficient Public Distribution System for distributing foodgrains in the country.

The two schemes launched by the government are mentioned below:

(i) **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):** It was introduced in 2000. It is meant for the poorest of poor. Under this scheme, now 35 kg of foodgrains are made available to each eligible poor family at ₹ 2 per kg for wheat and ₹ 3 per kg for rice.

(ii) **The Annapurna Scheme (APS):** It was launched in 2000. The special target groups of this scheme are poorest of the poor and indigent senior citizens.

**Q 9. What is meant by buffer stock? Why is buffer stock created by the government?**

**Ans.** Buffer stock is the stock of surplus foodgrains procured by the government through FCI from farmers. Buffer stock is created by the government because of the below mentioned reasons:

- (i) It is created by the government to distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas and among the poor sections of society at a price lower than the market price.
- (ii) This stock also helps to resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions.

**Q 10. Mention any three problems in the functioning of the ration shops.**

**Ans.** Problems related to the functioning of ration shops are:

- (i) Sometimes, PDS dealers indulge in black marketing of foodgrains.
- (ii) They sell good quality grains at higher prices in the market and supply low quality grains to the consumers.
- (iii) Sometimes, the dealers are found irregular in opening their shops.





**What were the three important food intervention programmes introduced by the Indian Government?**

The important food intervention programmes introduced by the Indian Government were:

- (i) Public Distribution System (PDS) for foodgrains.
- (ii) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) introduced in 1975.
- (iii) Food for Work (FFW) programme introduced in 1977-78.

**Q 12. Mention the causes responsible for the declining trend of foodgrain production recently.**

**Ans.** Causes for the declining trend of foodgrain production recently are:

- (i) More and more land is being used for construction of houses, factories, industries and warehouses.
- (ii) Degradation of soil due to excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides.
- (iii) Water-logging and salinity due to insufficient water management.
- (iv) Periodic scarcity of water for irrigation.

**Q 13. When and with what objectives was the National Food for Work Programme launched?**

**Ans.** National Food for Work Programme was launched on November 14, 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country with the following objectives:

- (i) The objective is to increase the generation of supplementary wage employment.
- (ii) The programme is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual unskilled work.
- (iii) It is a sponsored scheme of the Central Government and the foodgrains were provided to states free of cost.



## TIP

*Remember the year of launching of programmes along with their objectives and other features.*

**Q 14. When was the National Food Security Act passed? What are its objectives?**

**Ans.** The National Food Security Act was passed in 2013.

- (i) The main objective is to provide food and nutritional security life at affordable prices and enables people to live a life with self-respect.
- (ii) Under this Act, around 75% of rural population and 50% of urban population has been categorised as eligible households for food security.

**Q 15. What are the major functions of the Food Corporation of India?**

**Ans.** The Food Corporation of India was set up to fulfil the following objectives of the National Food Policy:

- (i) Effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the farmers by providing them remunerative prices for their foodgrains.
- (ii) Distribution of foodgrains throughout the country through the Public Distribution System.
- (iii) Maintaining a satisfactory level of operational and buffer stocks of foodgrains to ensure National Food Security.
- (iv) Intervention in the foodgrains market, when required, for price stabilisation.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. Why is there a need for food security in India?**

**Ans.** There is a need for food security in India due to the following reasons:

- (i) The population of India is increasing at a very fast rate. It has increased from 361 millions in 1951 to about 1.210 millions in 2011.
- (ii) There is a continuous tendency on the part of traders in India to hoard foodgrains and to accentuate the shortage of foodgrains in order to push up the prices for reaping extraordinary profit. Thus, this speculation and hoarding has created artificial crisis of foodgrains in the country.
- (iii) To improve the food situation in the country, the government has imposed various measures like price controls, rationing, zoning, surprise checks, etc. But as the administrative machinery in India is totally corrupt, these measures failed to reap any benefit to the general masses of the country.
- (iv) Most of the foodgrains are produced only by some states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. So, it is very difficult to transfer foodgrains from one region to another.

**Q 2. Who are the most affected food insecure people in India?**

**Ans.** Most affected food insecure people in India are:

- (i) Landless people with little or no land to depend upon.
- (ii) The traditional artisans.
- (iii) Providers of traditional services like pandits performing religious ceremonies.
- (iv) Petty, self-employed workers.
- (v) Poor and the destitutes including beggars.
- (vi) Those families are food insecure whose working members are usually employed in ill-paid occupations.
- (vii) Casual labour.



Explain briefly the essentials of adequate food security.

The following are the essentials of adequate food security:

- (i) There must be adequate and reasonably stable production of cereals, pulses, vegetable oils, sugar, fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat, fish and other food requirements.
- (ii) Research must be directed to produce food-products of a high nutritional value.
- (iii) There must be an efficient management for the distribution of available food supplies, particularly; food items must be made available to the poor strata at reasonable prices.
- (iv) Employment opportunities for the poor must be expanded, so that they may be able to acquire the required purchasing power to buy food items.
- (v) Improved technique of harvesting, processing, storage and cooking should be used to cut down the food losses and deterioration in nutritional content.



### TiP

*Essentials of adequate food policy implies the important measures involved that can make improvements in it.*

**Q 4. How does the government use buffer stock to ensure food security in the country?**

**Ans.** The government uses buffer stock to ensure food security in the country in the following ways:

- (i) The government procures foodgrains through FCI from the farmers after paying them a pre-announced price for their produce in Minimum Support Price.
- (ii) The FCI has its godowns all over the country that stores the purchased grains.
- (iii) The food that is procured by FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poor sections of the society at a price lower than the market price.
- (iv) The buffer stock helps to resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during the period of calamity.
- (v) Any family having a ration card can buy a stipulated amount of foodgrains such as rice and wheat from the ration shops.

**Q 5. Explain the measures adopted by the government of India to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains.**

**Ans.** The following measures were adopted by the government of India to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains:

- (i) A new strategy in agriculture that resulted in 'Green Revolution' was adopted by India especially in the production of wheat and rice.
- (ii) The government has made the provision of buffer stock meant to distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price. This helps to resolve the problem of food shortage during the time of calamities or during adverse weather conditions.
- (iii) The government has made provisions of Public Distribution System (PDS) for the distribution of foodgrains through government regulated shops among the poorer sections of the society.
- (iv) The government has also initiated various food, intervention programmes such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Food for Work (FFW) Programme, Rural Wage Employment Programme, Employment Guarantee Scheme, Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Mid-Day Meal, etc.

**Q 6. How can 'seed-fertilizer-water strategy' be a good solution to food security problem in India?**

**Ans.** The 'seed-fertilizer-water strategy' is the basis for Green Revolution. It has ensured self-sufficiency in foodgrain production during the last 30 years. The use of high yielding, disease and drought resistant seeds increases the production and productivity of the crop.

Similarly, use of fertilizer and better irrigation facility ensure maximum yield per acre of cultivation.

The high foodgrain production not only makes the country self-sufficient but also addresses the availability, accessibility and affordability issues related to food. So, in this way, the 'seed-fertilizer-water strategy' helps in ensuring food security.

**Q 7. Explain the impact of Green Revolution.**

**Ans.** Impact of Green Revolution can be explained with the help of the following points:

- (i) Green Revolution has made India self-sufficient in foodgrains.
- (ii) Because of Green Revolution, there has been an increase in the production of wheat and rice.
- (iii) The highest rate of growth in foodgrains was achieved in Punjab and Haryana.
- (iv) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh recorded significant increase in the yield.
- (v) The increase in the production of foodgrains helped the Government to build the buffer stock.







## Chapter Test

### Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. Which of the following arguments do not support the idea that high level of buffer stocks of foodgrains is very undesirable?
- High carrying costs
  - Waste of foodgrains
  - Deterioration in grain quality
  - Proper and best maintenance of foodgrains
- Q 2. Who released a special stamp entitled 'Wheat Revolution' in July 1968?
- Mahatma Gandhi
  - Indira Gandhi
  - Jawaharlal Nehru
  - Motilal Nehru
- Q 3. Buffer stock is the stock of foodgrains procured by the government through:
- IFCI
  - FCI
  - IDBI
  - FICCI
- Q 4. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme (APS) are linked with:
- Public Distribution System
  - Mid-day Meal
  - Special Nutrition Programme
  - None of the above
- Q 5. Sakhi is the leader of a team of her school. This team was asked to visit a famine prone area. She has to report to her principal. Which of the following problems she is going to report?
- Prolonged starvation
  - Non-availability of foodgrains
  - Probable spread of epidemics
  - All of the above

### Assertion and Reason Type Questions

**Directions (Q.Nos. 6-7):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Q 6. Assertion (A): Foodgrains are procured by the Food Corporation of India .

Reason (R): FCI provides Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers.

Q 7. Assertion (A): Social inability to buy food plays a critical role in food security.

Reason (R): Food insecure people include SCs, STs and some sections of OBCs (lower castes among them).

### Source Based Question

Q 8. Read the source given below and answer the questions that follows by choosing the most appropriate option:

The cooperatives are also playing an important role in food security in India especially in the Southern and Western parts of the country. The cooperative societies set up shops to sell low priced goods to poor people. For example, out of all fair price shops running in Tamil Nadu, around 94 per cent are being run by the cooperatives. In Delhi, Mother Dairy is making strides in provision of milk and vegetables to the consumers at controlled rate decided by Government of Delhi. Amul is another success story of cooperatives in milk and milk products from Gujarat. It has brought about the White Revolution in the country. These are a few examples of many more cooperatives running in different parts of the country ensuring food security of different sections of society.

(i) In which parts of India cooperatives are playing an important role?

- Southern
- Western
- Both a. and b.
- Eastern

(ii) In which of the following state around 94 per cent of shops are run by the cooperatives?

- Tamil Nadu
- Delhi
- Gujarat
- Maharashtra

(iii) What is the main objective of setting up shops by the cooperative societies?

- To sell low priced goods to poor people.
- To distribute foodgrains to people.
- To ensure food security of India.
- To reduce the shortage of foodgrains.





(iv) \_\_\_\_\_ of the following has brought about the  
Revolution in the country?

Mother Dairy

- b. Amul
  - c. Public Distribution System
  - d. Grain Banks
- (v) In which of the following states Academy of Development Science (ADS) has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks?
- a. Gujarat
  - b. Tamil Nadu
  - c. Maharashtra
  - d. Odisha
- (vi) How does Mother Dairy proved to be helpful in providing food security?
- a. By providing access to foodgrains.
  - b. By providing milk and vegetables to the consumers at the controlled rate.
  - c. By providing food security of different sections of society.
  - d. By providing little discount on milk.

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 9. Which are the food insecure families in the urban area?
- Q 10. Discuss the two schemes launched by the government to provide food security to the poor.

### Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 11. What do you mean by hunger? What are the different dimensions of hunger?
- Q 12. 'Food security is essential in India.' Justify the statement.
- Q 13. Explain the role of cooperatives in providing food and related items in different parts of the country.

### Long Answer Type Questions

- Q 14. Discuss about the various problems of the functioning of ration shops.
- Q 15. How has India achieved self-sufficiency in food grains since independence? Describe.

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