

Chapter-4

Food Security in India

1 marks Questions

1. What does the food security imply?

Ans. The food security implies availability, accessibility and affordability of food for all.

2. What was the production of rice in the province of Bengal in year 1939?

Ans. 79 Lakh tonnes.

3. Who released a special stamp entitled 'wheat Revolution' in July 1968?

Ans. Indra Gandhi.

4. Name the three sections of the society that are more prone to food insecurity.

Ans. SC, ST and OBC sections.

5. Economics Food Security In which year National Food for Work Program was launched and in how many districts?

Ans. November 14, 2004 and launched in 150 District.

6. What was the production of rice in the province of Bengal in year 1940?

Ans. 82 Lakhs Tonnes.

7. Which was the most devastating famine to have accrued in India?

Ans. The famine of Bengal 1943.



8. Name any two states where largest number of food insecure people lives.

Ans. Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

9. In which areas of India even today famine to has caused starvation deaths?

Ans. Kalahandi and kashipur in Odisha.

Baran district of Rajasthan.

Palamao district of Jharkhand

10. Name three dimensions of food security?

Ans. Availability, Accessibility and affordability.

11. Which states achieved the highest rate of growth in food grain production during Green Revolution?

Ans. Punjab and Haryana.

12. What is PDS?

Ans. Public Distribution System.

13. What was the production of rice in the province of Bengal in year 1941?

Ans. 68 Lakhs tonnes.

14. Economics Food Security Name the states which provide the evidences of starvation deaths during recent years?

Ans. Odisha and Jammu Kashmir.

15. How much money was allocated for NFWP during 2004-2005?



Ans. For 2004-2005, Rs 2020 crore have been allocated for the program in addition to 20Lakhs tones of food grains.

16. Write about FCI.

Ans. FCI means Food Corporation of India. It is the official agency to purchase food grains from the peasants.

17. What is subsidy?

Ans. Subsidy is a payment that a government makes to a producer to supply the market price of a commodity. Subsidies can keep consumer price low while maintaining higher income of the producers.

18. What is the objective of ADS?

Ans. ADS stand for Academy of Development science which facilitates a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different regions.

19. What was the production of rice in the province of Bengal in year 1938?

Ans. 85 Lakh tonnes.

20. What is the Full Forms of ICDS?

Ans. Integrated Child Development Services.



3 marks Questions

1. What was the declaration of World Earth Summit of 1995?

Ans. The 1995 World Food Summit declared, “Food security at the individual, household, regional, national and global levels 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”. The declaration further recognized that ‘poverty eradication is essential to improve access to food.

2. How is food security affected during a calamity?

Ans. Calamity means disasters like earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami, widespread failure of crops causing famines. Due to natural calamity, say drought, total production of food grains decrease. It creates a shortage of food in the affected areas. Due to shortage of, the prices goes up. At the high prices, some people cannot afford to buy food. If such calamity happens in a very longer time period, it may cause a situation of starvation. A massive starvation might take a turn of famine.

3. Explain the adverse impact upon supply of food grains during disaster. Write any three points.

Ans. Due to natural calamity, say drought, total production of food grains decrease. It creates a shortage of food in the affected areas.

Due to shortage of, the prices goes up. At the high prices, some people cannot afford to buy food.

If such calamity happens in a very longer time period, it may cause a situation of starvation. A massive starvation might take a turn of famine



4. What do you mean by food security?

Ans. Food security is a vital concept.

It means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all citizens of the country at all items.

Government maintains food security through various agencies such as PDS and vigilance and action at times, when this security is threatened.

5. Why do we need food security?

Ans. Food security is needed to provide food to all people in all situations.

During the time of natural calamities or disasters poor section of society might be food insecure.

During disasters food prices might rise and go beyond the reach of poor people.

If the situation persists for a long time, people may be starved. Thus, to avoid starvation food security is required.

6. Write a short note on famine.

Ans. It is wide spread scarcity of food in a particular area, region or a country.

There may be a many reasons of famine. It may be caused by lack of food or lack of proper distribution of food.

Famine conditions may be worsened due to natural climate changes or by extreme political conditions such as military government or dictatorship or war-like situations.

Famines make a deep impact on a country or a region or area. Large scale deaths may occur due to famine.

7. Which regions of India are prone to the food insecurity?

Ans. 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 and food insecurity.

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.

8. Can you explain the components of security system started by the government of India?

Ans. The availability of food grains at the country level has further been ensured with a carefully designed food security system by the government. This system has two components:

Buffer Stock: Buffer stock is the stock of food grains, namely wheat and rice procured by the government through Food Corporation of India. The FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production. The purchased food grains are stored in granaries.

Public Distribution System: The food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated through government regulated ration shops among the poorer section of the society. This is called Public Distribution system.

9. Why is agriculture a seasonal activity?

Ans. A farmer remains busy at the time of sowing, harvesting and weeding.

Rest of the seasons he does not have any work in the fields.

Thus, he remains without work for around four months in a year.

Therefore, agriculture is called a seasonal activity.

10. What is Subsidy?

Ans. It is a payment that a government makes to a producer to supplement the market price of an item.

Subsidies can keep consumer price low while maintaining a higher income for domestic producers.

Government provides subsidy on various items such as LPG, kerosene, fertilizers etc

11. What is the importance of Rationing?

Ans. We need rationing to reduce the wastage and for the maximum utilization of



thearticles.

During the time of emergency or natural calamities rationing helps to overcome the crisis. In India, the rationing concept was introduced in the 1940s after the Bengal famine.

12. Why are some states are more prone to hunger?

Ans. It is true that some states are more prone to hunger.

The food insecure people are disproportional large in some parts of the country.

Most of these regions are economically backward.

They have high rate of poverty.

They are tribal or remote areas.

Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh etc., are states prone to hunger in India.

13. Explain the three different cards of ration cards?

Ans. Antyodaya Cards: Antyodaya cards are for the poorest of the poor.

Below Poverty Line Cards: BPL cards for those below poverty line

Above Poverty Line Cards: APL cards are for all.

14. What are the advantages of the Green Revolution?

Ans. The green revolution resulted in the large scale production of wheat and rice.

India became self sufficient in the production of food grains.

Farmers began to use HYV seeds and modern techniques of farming

The income of farmers has grown up.

It helped in the development of agro based industries.

15. What are the draw backs of the Green Revolution?

Ans. The green revolution has created wide regional disparities.

Only Punjab and Haryana have been benefitted allot where as other states were least benefitted.

It has increased income inequality.

Only the rich farmers get a lot of benefit form green revolution.



16. Write a short note Buffer Stock?

Ans. It is stock of food grains namely wheat and rice procured by the government through Food Corporation of India.

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. The buffer stock helps to resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during the period of calamity.

17. Write a short note on Public Distribution System.

Ans. The food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer section of the society. This is called the Public Distribution system

Ration shops are present in most localities, villages, towns and cities. There are about 5.5 lakhs ration shops all over the country.

18. Which are the people more prone to food insecurity?

Ans. The SCs and STs and some sections of the OBCs who have either poor land base or very low land productivity are prone to food insecurity.

The people affected by natural disaster, who have to migrate to other areas in search of work, are also among the most food insecure people.

A large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under the age of five years constitute an important segment of the food insecure population.

19. Explain the different malpractices done by PDS dealers?

Ans. PDS dealers sell the grains to the open market to get a better margin, selling poor quality grains at ration shops.

It is common to find that ration shops regularly have unsold stocks of poor quality grains left.

20. How are food insecure people disproportionately large in some regions of the country?



Ans. There are some states which are economically backward states with high incidence of poverty.

These are the tribal and remote areas and regions more prone to natural disasters, etc. In fact the states of UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account for the largest number of food insecure people in the country.

21. What are the major objectives of Academy of Development Science in Maharashtra?

Ans. ADS have facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different regions. ADS organize training and capacity building programs on food security for NGOs. Grain banks are now slowly taking shape in different parts of Maharashtra. ADS efforts to set up Grain Banks; to facilitate replication through other NGOs and to influence the Government policies on food security are thus paying rich dividends.

22. Explain the three dimensions of Food Security.

Ans. Availability: Availability of food means production within the country, food imports and previous year's stock stored in the government granaries.
Affordability of Food: Affordability implies that an individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one's dietary need.
Accessibility of food: Accessibility means food is within reach of every person.

23. What were impacts of famine of Bengal in 1943?

Ans. The most devastating famine that occurred in India was the famine of Bengal in 1943. This famine killed 30 lakhs people in the province of Bengal. Nothing like Bengal Famine has happened in India again. During famine families have to leave their villages. The agricultural labourers, fishermen, transport workers and other casual labourers were affected the most by dramatically increasing in price of rice. They were the ones who died in this famine.

24. Which regions of India are prone to the food insecurity?



Ans. 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 and food insecurity.

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.

25. Can you explain the three important food intervention programs which were introduced due to the report given by NSSO?

Ans. Public Distribution system for food grains (in existence earlier but strengthened there after) is major step taken by the Government of India towards ensuring food security. Integrated Child Development Services introduced in 1975 on an experimental program. National Food for Work Program was introduced in 1977-78. This program was launched on November 14, 2004 in 150 districts of the country with the objective of intensifying the generation of supplementary wage employment.

26. Write a short note on the National Food Security Act 2013.

Ans. The Act provides for food and nutritional security life at affordable prices and enables people to live a life with dignity.

Under this act 75% of rural population and 50% of urban population have been categorized as eligible households for food security.

27. Write a short note on AAY?

Ans. AAY is Antyodaya Ann Yojana. It 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.

Poor families were identified by the respective state rural development departments through a below poverty line survey.

25 kilograms of food grains were made available to each eligible family at a highly subsidies rate of Rs 2 per kilogram for wheat and Rs 3 per kilogram for rice.



28. Define MSP?

Ans. The FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers.

The farmers are paid a pre announced price for their crops.

This price is called Minimum Support Price.

The MSP is declared by the government every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to the farmers for raising the production of these crops.

29. What is Issue Price?

Ans. In order to help the poor strata of the society, the government provides food grains from the Buffer Stock at a price much lower than the market Price.

This subsidies price is known as the Issue Price.

It is very helpful to provide food to people during critical situations such as calamity.

30. What is a Fair Price Shop?

Ans. The food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer section the society. This is called the Public Distribution system.

Ration shops are present in most localities, villages, towns and cities. There are about 5.5 lakhs ration shops all over the country.

These ration shops are known as Fair Price Shops. These shops keep stock of food grains, sugar, and kerosene oil for cooking.



5 marks Questions

1. Why do we need food security?

Ans. The poorest section of the society might be food insecure most of the times while persons above the poverty line might also be food insecure during natural calamities. During natural calamities like drought, earth quake, flood, tsunami etc, total production of food grains decreases and we need food during such type of hazards.. It creates a shortage of food and the prices go up. At high prices some people cannot afford to buy food. High population growth and unequal production of food grains also led to food insecurity. One of the major reason for which we need food security is the corrupt administrative practice, hoarding and black marketing.

2. Write a short note on seasonal hunger.

Ans. Seasonal hunger is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting. This type of hunger is prevalent in rural areas because of the seasonal nature of agricultural activities and in urban areas because of the casual labour. This type of hunger exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year. The pattern of this hunger persists year after year. The percentage of seasonal hunger has declined in India from 16.2% in 1983 to 2.6% in 1999-2000 in rural areas.

3. What are the features of Chronic hunger?

Ans. Chronic hunger is the consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity or quality. Poor people suffer from chronic hunger because of their very low income and in turn,



inability to buy food even for survival.

This is mostly seen in the rural areas.

It occurs, when people lack the opportunity to earn enough money to be educated and gain skills to meet their basic needs.

This hunger continues for long and leads to death.

The percentage of chronic hunger has declined to 0.7 and 0.3 in 1999-2000 in rural and urban areas respectively.

4. Which section of the population is are prone to the food insecurity?

Ans. Following are the sections of population which are prone to food security:

The SCs and STs and some sections of the OBCs, who have either poor land base or very low land productivity are prone to food insecurity.

The people affected by natural disasters, who have to migrate to other areas in search of work, are also among the most food insecure people. A high incidence of malnutrition prevails among women. This is a matter of serious concern as it puts even the unborn baby at the risk of malnutrition. Large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under the age of 5 years constitute an important segment of the food insecure population.

5. The Famine of Bengal causes a heavy devastation'. Explain.

Ans. The most devastating famine that accrued in India was famine of Bengal in 1943.

This famine killed thirty lakhs people in the province of Bengal. Nothing like the Bengal famine has happened in India again. The agricultural laborers, fishermen, transport workers and other casual laborers were affected the most by dramatically increasing price of rice. They were the ones who died in this famine. Starvation victims stayed in the relief camps. During the Bengal Famine of 1943, families leave their villages and migrated to the safe places.

6. Elaborate the major objectives of Academy of Development Science?

Ans. Following are the major objectives of Academy of Development Science:

In Maharashtra, Academy of Development of Science has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different regions.

ADS organize training and capacity building programmes on food security for NGOs. Grain Banks are now slowly taking shapes in different parts of Maharashtra. ADS efforts to set up Grain Banks. Grain Banks facilitate replication through other NGOs and to influence the Government's policy on food security are thus paying rich dividends. The ADS Grain Bank Program is acknowledged as a successful and innovative food security intervention.

7. The Cooperatives are also playing an important role in food security in the South-Western part of India". Explain.

Ans. Cooperatives are playing very important role in food security in India especially in the southern and western parts of the country.

The cooperatives 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 cooperatives.

Amul is another success story of cooperatives in milk and milk products from Gujarat. It has brought about the White Revolution in the country.

Sugar Cooperative mills are also running successfully in the Southern part of India.

8. Cite evidences which explain that India is self-sufficient in food grain production.

Ans. India has become self-sufficient in food grain production during the last thirty years This is because of a variety of crops grown all over the country.

The availability of food grains even in adverse weather conditions or otherwise, has further been ensured with a carefully designed food security system by the government. Green Revolution makes self-sufficient. This system of Buffer stock and public distribution system proves very helpful in ensuring self-sufficiency in food security. The government has also initiated other food intervention programmes like Integrated Child Development Services, Food for Work Program, Rural Wage Employment Programs.

9. What are the criticisms faced by PDS in India?

Ans. PDS deals are found restoring to malpractices like selling the grains to the open market to get the better margins.

Sometimes they sell poor quality grains at ration shops.



They open their shops irregularly without considering the problems poor people.

Ration shops regularly have unsold stocks of poor quality grains left.

When ration shops are unable to sell, a massive stock of food grain piles up the Food Corporation of India.

FCI go-downs are over flowing with grains, with some rotting away and some being eaten by rats and insects.

There is a very little difference between the prices of goods sold at the ration shops and at the shops of market.

10. How would you explain the different grounds on which the Public Distribution System has faced severe criticism?

Ans. The Public distribution system has faced severe criticism on several grounds.

Instances of Hunger are prevalent despite overflowing granaries.

FCI go-downs are over flowing with grains, with some rotting away and some being eaten by rats and insects.

There is a general consensus that high level of buffer stocks of food grains is very undesirable and can be wasteful. The storage of massive food stocks has been responsible for high carrying costs. Corruption by FCI officials. Black Marketing by PDS dealers.