

# Food Security In India

## ***Food Security:***

Food security means availability of food to all people all the time.

Food security has following dimensions:

**Availability of food:** This means the food production within the country, food imports and previous years' stock stored in government granaries.

**Accessibility of food:** This means food should be within reach of every person.

**Affordability:** This means that every individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one's dietary needs.

## ***What is need of food security?***

Food security is needed for various purposes. The main purpose of food security is the no person should go to bed with empty stomach. The other reason is that in times of natural calamities, surplus food should be available to ensure adequate food supply to those who are affected by the calamity.

## ***Famine:***

A situation which leads to widespread death because of starvation and epidemics caused by forced use of contaminated water or decaying food. The FAMINE OF BENGAL in 1943 was the most devastating famine which occurred in recorded history. The Bengal famine killed about 30 lakh people in Bengal.

Historical data suggest that the Bengal famine was not caused due to lack of availability of food but due to lack of access to food. The amount of rice produced was more or less similar from 1938 to 1945.

## ***Food Insecure People***

The worst affected people from food-insecurity are the landless poor, traditional artisans, providers of traditional services, petty self-employed workers and destitute. In urban areas; people who are employed in low paid jobs and in seasonal works come under this category of people.

If we look at the socioeconomic groups in India; then the SCs, STs and some sections of the OBCs are people who are either landless or have poor land-base. They are the people most prone to food-insecurity. People who migrate to other areas in search of work are also food-insecure people. Women; especially pregnant women are also at high risk.

The BIMARU states (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) and Orissa have a large portion of population which can be among the food-insecure people.

Hunger is not just an expression of poverty rather it brings about poverty. There can be chronic hunger or seasonal hunger. Chronic hunger is prevalent among those who earn very low and thus suffer from hunger for most of the time. Seasonal hunger is related to agricultural cycle. Many landless farm workers and marginal farmers may be suffering from seasonal hunger. In urban areas; people who suffer from seasonal unemployment can suffer from seasonal hunger.

### ***Food Security in India***

Green Revolution was started with an aim to achieve food security in India. Since the launch of the Green Revolution in 1970s, there has not been a single case of famine in spite of adverse weather conditions in several years. Foodgrain production increased from about 70 million tonnes in 1960-61 to about 200 million tonnes in 2003-04.

### ***Buffer Stock***

The stock of foodgrains (wheat and rice) procured by the government through FCI (Food Corporation of India) makes the buffer stock. The FCI purchases wheat and rice from farmers in those states which have surplus production. The government fixes an MSP (Minimum Support Price) to buy the foodgrains. MSP is revised from time to time. A part of this buffer stock is utilised to supply foodgrains to poor people at subsidized rates. This is done through the PDS (Public Distribution System). The rest of the stock is maintained to meet any eventuality in any part of the country.

### ***Public Distribution System (PDS)***

This is a chain of fair price shops (ration shops) through which subsidized food, sugar and kerosene are given to the poor people. A family needs to have a ration card to avail the facility of PDS. A family with a ration card can buy 35 kg of grains, 5 litres of kerosene, 5 kg of sugar, etc. Items and quantities can vary from one state to another.

Rationing was introduced in India in the backdrop of the Bengal famine. This system was again revived in the 1960s to tackle acute shortage of food.

In the 1970s, three important food intervention programmes were introduced to tackle the shortage of food:

***Public Distribution System (PDS):*** This system was made to ensure smooth supply of subsidized food items to the poor.

***Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):*** These services were introduced to provide proper nutrition to poor children.

***Food for Work (FFW):*** This programme was introduced to help the poor to earn food in lieu of some work.

Similarly, many Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs) have been introduced from time to time to tackle the food shortage. Mid Day Meal scheme was launched in government schools to provide freshly cooked lunch to poor children.

### ***Current Status of PDS in India***

At present, there are 478,000 ration shops in India; which makes it the largest distribution network in the world.

| Some Important Features of PDS             |                      |                          |                     |  |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Name of scheme                             | Year of Introduction | Coverage target group    | Latest volume       | Issue price (Rs. per kg)                                 |
| PDS  | Up to 1992           | Universal                |                     | W (2.34),<br>R(2.89)                                     |
| RPDS (Revamped Public Distribution System) | 1992                 | Backward blocks          | 20 kg of foodgrains | W(2.80),<br>R(3.77)                                      |
| TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System) | 1997                 | Poor and non-poor        | 35 kg of foodgrains | BPL: W(2.50),<br>R(3.50)<br><br>APL: W(4.50),<br>R(7.00) |
| AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana)                | 2000                 | Poorest of the poor      | 35 kg of foodgrains | W(2.00),<br>R(3.00)                                      |
| APS (Annapurna Scheme)                     | 2000                 | Indigent senior citizens | 10 kg of foodgrains | Free   |

**The PDS has proved to be quite effective in helping the poor people. However, there have many instances of poor management and corruption. Many people complain that after the segregation of APL and BPL, people holding the APL card seldom go to the ration shops because of minor variations with the market prices. The ration shopkeepers often siphon off the foodgrains into open market and sell poor quality foodgrains through the ration shop. The shopkeepers are also erratic in their behaviour because of which many people suffer.**

**In July 2002, FCI had 63 million tonnes of rice and wheat. This stock was much higher than the minimum buffer norms of 24.3 million tonnes. When relief operation were carried out in 2002-03 because of drought, the stock with FCI eased somewhat. The high level of buffer**

**stock has created its own problems. The foodgrains rot in many FCI godowns and are eaten away by rats.**

**The practice of providing MSP for wheat and rice has also created various problems. Many farmers have concentrated on wheat and rice to get the MSP and have diverted the land use from other crops. This has created a shortage for coarse foodgrains; like millets and maize.**

**Intensive cultivation of rice and wheat has also proved a drain on groundwater because these crops need more irrigation.**

**At many places cooperatives have come up and they are managing the PDS in a better way.**

Question – 1 - How is food security ensured in India?

Answer: Food security is being ensured in India by using following methods:

By improving food production

By maintaining buffer stock

By Public Distribution System

Question – 2 - Which are the people more prone to food insecurity?

Answer: The worst affected people from food-insecurity are the landless poor, traditional artisans, providers of traditional services, petty self-employed workers and destitute. In urban areas; people who are employed in low paid jobs and in seasonal works come under this category of people.

Question – 3 - Which states are more food insecure in India?

Answer: The BIMARU states (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) and Orissa have a large portion of population which can be among the food-insecure people.

Question – 4 - Do you believe that green revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains? How?

Answer: Since the launch of the Green Revolution in 1970s, there has not been a single case of famine in spite of adverse weather conditions in several years. Foodgrain production increased from about 70 million tonnes in 1960-61 to about 200 million tonnes in 2003-04.

Question – 5 - A section of people in India are still without food. Explain?

Answer: Although India has become a food surplus country, there are still some people who suffer from food insecurity. As per the data of 1999-2000, about 0.9% of people still suffer from hunger. While this is a very small amount in terms of percentage, it can be a large number in absolute terms.

Question – 6 - What happens to the supply of food when there is a disaster or a calamity?

Answer: In case of a disaster or a calamity, the food supply gets interrupted. Many people come in a position in which they may have to go hungry. The buffer stock from the FCI is utilised in those situations to provide food to the affected people. For example; food packets are dropped in flood affected areas.

Question – 7 - Differentiate between seasonal hunger and chronic hunger?

Answer: Chronic hunger is prevalent among those who earn very low and thus suffer from hunger for most of the time. Seasonal hunger is related to agricultural cycle. Many landless farm workers and marginal farmers may be suffering from seasonal hunger.

Question – 8 - What has our government done to provide food security to the poor? Discuss any two schemes launched by the government?

Answer: In the 1970s, three important food intervention programmes were introduced to tackle the shortage of food:

Public Distribution System (PDS): This system was made to ensure smooth supply of subsidized food items to the poor.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS): These services were introduced to provide proper nutrition to poor children.

Food for Work (FFW): This programme was introduced to help the poor to earn food in lieu of some work.

Question – 9 - Why buffer stock is created by the government?

Answer: Buffer stock has been created to meet any exigencies. The buffer stock can be utilised in case of drought or flood or any natural calamity.

Question – 10 - Write notes on:

(a) Minimum support price

Answer: The government procures foodgrains and some other farm produce through the FCI. For this, the government announced MSP (Minimum Support Price).

(b) Buffer stock

Answer: The extra stock of foodgrains maintained by the FCI is called buffer stock. This stock is utilised in case of drought or flood or any natural calamity.

(c) Issue price

Answer: The price at which foodgrains are sold through the PDS is called issue price. The issue price is always lower than the market price.

(d) Fair price shops

Answer: The ration shops which come under the PDS are called fair price shops.

Question – 11 - What are the problems of the functioning of ration shops?

Answer: There have many instances of poor management and corruption. Many people complain that after the segregation of APL and BPL, people holding the APL card seldom go to the ration shops because of minor variations with the market prices. The ration shopkeepers often siphon off the foodgrains into open market and sell poor quality foodgrains through the ration shop. The shopkeepers are also erratic in their behaviour because of which many people suffer.

Question – 12 - Write a note on the role of cooperatives in providing food and related items.

Answer: Cooperatives are playing important role in providing food and related items at fair prices. AMUL is an example of cooperative which procures and sells milk to most parts of India. Mother Dairy sells milk and dairy products and vegetables through its various outlets.

## **GLOSSARY**

**Food Security :** It means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times.

**Green Revolution :** It refers to the tremendous increase in agricultural output and productivity that came about with the introduction of new agricultural technology since late 1960's and made the Indian economy self sufficient in terms of food grains.

**Famine** : Massive starvation deaths and deaths caused by epidemics due to forced use of contaminated water and decayed food is called famine.

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

**Public distribution System** : It is the system in which the food procured by the FCI is distributed through the government regulated ration shops among the poor sections of the society. The items such as food grains, sugar, kerosene etc are sold to the people at a price lower than the market price.

**Minimum Support Price** : It is the price which is paid by the government to the farmers for the purchase of food grains. It is a pre-announced and is declared by the government before the sowing season.

**Issue Price** : It is the price at which the FCI distributes the food grains in the deficit areas and among the poor strata of the society. Issue price is lower than the market price. It is the subsidised price.

**Fair Price Shops** : Fair price shops are the ration shops. The food procured by the FCI is distributed through these government regulated shops among the poor strata of the society. Fair price shops are present in most localities, villages, towns and cities.

**Seasonal Hunger** : It is related to the cycles of food security and insecurity. Seasonal hunger exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year. It is a type of hunger when a person doesn't get proper food neither in terms of quantity nor in terms of quality for some time during the year.

**Chronic Hunger** : It is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and/or quality. Poorer sections of the society suffer from chronic hunger because of their very low income and in turn inability to buy food even for their survival.

**Q1** What happens to the food security when there is a natural calamity or a disaster?

When there is a disaster or a calamity, total production of foodgrains decreases. It creates a shortage of food in the affected areas. As a result, the supply of foodgrains falls in relation to demand which further results in price rise. In such a situation, majority of people cannot afford food and they begin to starve and die.

**Q2** Which are the people that are more prone to food insecurity?

Landless people with little or no land to depend upon.

Traditional artisans

Providers of traditional services

Petty self-employed workers

Destitutes including beggars  
People employed in ill-paid occupations  
Casual labourers  
Labourers engaged in seasonal activities  
Women, elderly, sick members and handicapped  
SCs, STs and some sections of the OBCs who have either poor land base or very low land productivity  
People affected by the natural disasters and calamities

Q3 Differentiate between seasonal and chronic hunger.

Seasonal Hunger : It is related to the cycles of food security and insecurity. Seasonal hunger exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year. It is a type of hunger when a person doesn't get proper food neither in terms of quantity nor in terms of quality for some time during the year. Chronic Hunger : It is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and/or quality. Poorer sections of the society suffer from chronic hunger because of their very low income and in turn inability to buy food even for their survival.

Q4 What is buffer stock and why is it created by the government? Buffer stock refers to the stock of wheat and rice maintained by the government and it is handled by the FCI.

FCI procures wheat and rice from the farmers immediately after the harvesting of these crops. The stocks of these grains are released through the Fair Price Shops.

The principal objective of buffer stock is to maintain prices of food grains. The price stability is essential to protect the interests of both producers and consumers.

Different conditions favour producers and consumers.

If there is a bumper crop : in this situation market price of wheat and rice will fall down drastically. Farmers will be the losers. By guaranteeing to purchase wheat at a pre announced price, the government ensures that the price of wheat and rice do not crash and the farmers' interest is protected.

If there is a crop deficit : in this situation market price of wheat will rise sharply. This will cause inflationary tendencies in the economy. Buffer stocks can be used to check the price rise. Wheat would be released from the buffer stock and would be available for sale in the market. Supply of wheat would increase and the price will come down. Price stability would be ensured. Consumers' interests will not be harmed.

Thus, buffer stocks help to protect the interests of both producers and consumers.

Q5 How can we ensure the availability of food?

Availability of food can be ensured by production within the country, food imports and the previous years of stock in government granaries.

Q6 What do you mean by the accessibility of food?

Accessibility means the food is within the easy reach and approach of every person.

Q7 What do you mean by affordability of food?

Affordability of food implies that an individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one's dietary needs.



Q8 How is food security ensured in India?

To ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all sections of society the Indian Government has designed food security system, which is composed of two elements namely:

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

**Public distribution System** : It is the system in which the food procured by the FCI is distributed through the government regulated ration shops among the poor sections of the society. The items such as food grains, sugar, kerosene etc are sold to the people at a price lower than the market price.

Q9 Explain the current status of PDS.

PDS is one of the most important steps taken by the Government of India towards ensuring food security.

In the beginning the coverage of PDS was universal with no discrimination between the poor and non-poor. Over the years, the policy related to PDS has been revised to make it more efficient and targeted.

In 1993, Revamped Public Distribution (RPDS) was introduced in 1700 blocks of the country. The aim was to provide the benefits of PDS to remote and backward areas.

From June 1997, a new policy Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced to adopt the principle of targeting the 'poor in all areas'.

Further in 2000, two special schemes were launched i.e. ANTYODYA ANNA YOJNA ( AAY ) and ANNAPURNA SCHEME (APS) with special target groups of 'poorest of the poor ' and indignant senior citizens respectively. The functioning of these schemes was linked with the existing network of the PDS.

Q10 What are the problems associated with high minimum support price of the food grains?

MSP of wheat and rice has been continuously rising from year to year. Higher MSP has caused a number of problems like : higher MSP of wheat and rice has induced the farmers to divert the land from the production of coarse grains to the production of wheat and rice only. Coarse grains are the staple diet of the poor. The poor tend to suffer.

The intensive utilization of water in the cultivation of rice has lead to environmental degradation. It has also led to a fall in the water level.

Q11 What problems are associated with the high levels of buffer stock?

The high levels of buffer stock of food grains is undesirable because :

It can be wasteful.

It results in the deterioration of quality of food grains.

It causes high carrying costs, storing costs and maintenance costs.

Q12 Mention the problems based in the functioning of ration shops.

Ration shop dealers are found resorting to malpractices like

Hoarding and black marketing i.e. Diverting the grains to the open market to get better margin.

Selling poor quality grains through the ration shops.  
Irregular opening time of shops.  
Use of false weights  
Selling of adulterated grains and other essential commodities of consumption.

Q13 What are the different type of ration cards?

There are 3 types of ration cards.

Antyodaya cards for the poorest of the poor.

BPL cards for those who lie below the poverty line.

APL cards for all others who are above the poverty line.

### MCQ

**(i) FCI stands for:**

- (a) Fuel co-operative of Institute (b) Food corporation of India
- (c) Food collection in India (d) First collective investment

**(ii) Revamped Public Distribution system was launched in the year:**

- (a) 2000 (b) 2001 (c) 1999 (d) 1992

**(i) Malnutrition is a state of:**

- (a) Not having proper supply of milk
- (b) Not having enough food or not getting nutritious food
- (c) Not having enough medicines
- (d) Not having enough clean drinking water to drink

**(ii) Which one of the following is not covered under the PDS ?**

- (a) Wheat (b) Sugar (c) Kerosene (d) Vegetable

1. Explain the following terms: Food security, Famine, Wheat Revolution, Buffer stock, Minimum support price, Issue price, Public Distribution System, Subsidy.
2. In which recent year was food grain stock with the government the maximum?
3. How does World Food Summit define food security?
4. How is food security ensured in a country?
5. How does a calamity affect food security?
6. Which areas in India lack food security?
7. What was the biggest achievement of the Green Revolution?
8. What are the three kinds of ration cards issued in India?
9. On what grounds is PDS criticised?
10. How does rising minimum support price affect food security?
11. Differentiate between seasonal hunger and chronic hunger?
12. Trace the growth of food grain production in India since independence.
13. How does PDS ensure food security in India?
14. What are the problems in the functioning of ration shops?
15. What is the role of co-operatives in providing food security in India?
16. How has PDS been renewed by the Indian Government to improve and ensure food security?

17. Discuss briefly the three important food intervention programmes introduced by the Indian Government.
18. Write a note on success of Academy of Development Science (ADS) in innovative food security intervention.
19. Which are the groups worst affected by food and nutrition insecurity?
20. What factors have led to the decline of the PDS?
21. Write in brief about two special schemes launched in year 2000 by government of India to ensure food security?

**1. Public Distribution System is associated with :**

- (a) fair price shops
- (b) cooperative stores
- (c) super bazars
- (d) none of the above

► (a) fair price shops

**2. MSP refers to :**

- (a) Minimum Support Price
- (b) Maximum Support Price
- (c) Marginal Support Price
- (d) None of the above

► (a) Minimum Support Price

**3. Green Revolution in the 1960s was associated with :**

- (a) use of HYV seeds
- (b) tree plantation programme
- (c) fisheries development
- (d) none of the above

► (a) use of HYV seeds

**4. White Revolution of the country is associated with :**

- (a) sugar
- (b) milk
- (c) paper
- (d) none of the above

► (b) milk

**5. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme (APS) are linked with :**

- (a) public distribution system
- (b) mid-day meal
- (c) special nutrition programme
- (d) none of the above

► (a) public distribution system

**6. Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) aimed to provide benefits to :**

- (a) cities
- (b) remote and backward areas
- (c) self-help groups
- (d) cooperative societies
- (b) remote and backward areas

**7. Annapurna Scheme (APS) meets the food requirements of :**

- (a) indigent senior citizens
- (b) children
- (c) pregnant ladies
- (d) young persons
- (a) indigent senior citizens

**8. The society which facilitated setting up of grain banks in different regions is :**

- (a) Amul (Gujarat)
- (b) Academy of Development Science (Maharashtra)
- (c) Mother Dairy (Delhi)
- (d) None of the above
- (b) Academy of Development Science (Maharashtra)

**9. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is announced by the government to provide :**

- (a) incentives to farmers for raising production
- (b) incentives to traders to earn maximum profit from farmers
- (c) incentives to moneylenders to lend maximum to farmers
- (d) none of the above
- (a) incentives to farmers for raising production

**10. Main purpose of buffer stock scheme is :**

- (a) to save food grains from pest attack
- (b) to stop price fluctuations
- (c) to meet the crisis of low production
- (d) both (b) and (c)
- (d) both (b) and (c)

**11. Massive starvation takes place due to :**

- (a) rise in the price of essential commodities
- (b) decline in production of foodgrains
- (c) drought
- (d) both (a) and (b)
- (c) drought

**12. Which crop registered the largest increase in production as a result of Green Revolution?**

- (a) wheat

- (b) rice
- (c) maize
- (d) none of the above

► (a) wheat

**13. Seasonal hunger occurs in :**

- (a) urban areas
- (b) rural areas
- (c) metro cities
- (d) both (a) and (b)

► (b) rural areas

**14. In which of the following states do we find the largest number of foodinsecure people?**

- (a) Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa
- (b) Bihar, Jharkhand and Gujarat
- (c) Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Tamilnadu
- (d) Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka

► (a) Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa

**15. Chronic hunger refers to :**

- (a) low income
- (b) inadequate quantity of food
- (c) inadequate quality of food
- (d) all of the above

► (d) all of the above

**16. Who released a special stamp entitled 'Wheat Revolution' in July 1968?**

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Indira Gandhi
- (c) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (d) Motilal Nehru

► (b) Indira Gandhi

**17. To whom the yellow card is issued?**

- (a) To shop keeper
- (b) To land lord's
- (c) To government employee
- (d) People below the poverty line

► (d) People below the poverty line

**18. Food for Work Programme was launched in which of the following years?**

- (a) 2003
- (b) 2001
- (c) 2004

(d) 2005

► (c) 2004

**19. The price that is announced before the sowing season is called:**

(a) Issue price

(b) Fair price

(c) Market price

(d) Minimum support price

► (d) Minimum support price

**20. Kalahandi is situated in which of the following states?**

(a) Orissa

(b) Punjab

(c) Rajasthan

(d) Bihar

► (a) Orissa

**21. FCI stands for**

(a) Foreign Co-operation with India

(b) Food Corporation of India

(c) Fosilse Corporation of India

(d) Food Coming to India

► (b) Food Corporation of India

**22. Which among the following schemes was initiated for the poor in all areas?**

(a) TPDS

(b) RPDS

(c) AAY

(d) All of the above

► (d) All of the above

**23. Which among the following schemes was started in the year 2000 for the indigent senior citizens?**

(a) PDS

(b) NFWP

(c) SGSY

(d) APS

► (d) APS

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

(a) Gujarat

(b) Haryana

(c) Punjab

(d) Maharashtra

► (d) Maharashtra

**25. Which institution was set up by Maharashtra Academy of Development Science to facilitate a network of NGO's?**

- (a) Gramin banks
  - (b) Grain banks
  - (c) Co-operative banks
  - (d) Commercial banks
- (b) Grain banks

**26. In which year was the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) introduced?**

- (a) 1965
  - (b) 1975
  - (c) 1985
  - (d) 1995
- (b) 1975

## **Very Short Answer Type Questions [1 Mark]**

### **Question 1.**

**What do you mean by food security?**

#### **Answer:**

Food security means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times.

### **Question 2.**

**Why is food security needed?**

#### **Answer:**

Food security is needed to meet emergencies, shortage of food grains, prevent starvation and famines.

### **Question 3.**

**Which was the most devastating famine that occurred in India during the 20th century?**

#### **Answer:**

Famine of Bengal in 1943

### **Question 4.**

**Who were the most affected by the famine of Bengal?**

#### **Answer:**



The agricultural labourers, fishermen, transport workers and other casual labourers were most affected by the dramatic increase in the price of rice.

**Question 5.**

**Which are the food insecure families in the urban area?**

**Answer:**

The food insecure families in the urban areas are those whose working members are generally employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labour market.

**Question 6.**

**State the full form of NHFS.**

**Answer:**

NHFS stands for National Health and Family Survey.

**Question 7.**

**What do you mean by hunger?**

**Answer:**

It is another aspect of indicating food security. It is not just an expression of poverty, it brings poverty.

**Question 8.**

**State the dimensions of hunger.**

**Answer:**

Chronic hunger and seasonal hunger are the two dimensions of hunger.

**Question 9.**

**What do you mean by chronic hunger?**

**Answer:**

Chronic hunger is a consequence of diet persistently inadequate in terms of quantity or quality.

**Question 10.**

**What do you mean by seasonal hunger?**

**Answer:**

Seasonal hunger is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting. It is prevalent more in rural areas.

**Question 11.**

**Name the new strategy adopted in agriculture in India after independence to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains.**

**Answer:**

Green Revolution

**Question 12.**

**Define Green Revolution.**

**Answer:**

Green Revolution implies large increase in agricultural production due to use of high yielding varieties of seeds and other inputs such as manure and fertilisers.

**Question 13.**

**Which states achieved the highest rate of growth in food grains production in 2015-16?**

**Answer:**

Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

**Question 14.**

**What was the total food-grain production in India in 2015-16?**

**Answer:**

252.22 million tonnes.

**Question 15.**

**State the two components of food security system.**

**Answer:**

Buffer Stock and Public Distribution System

**Question 16.**

**What do you mean by Buffer Stock?**

**Or**

**Define Buffer Stock.**

**Answer:**

Buffer Stock is the stock of food grains, particularly wheat and rice, procured by the government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

**Question 17.**

**What does the Food Corporation of India do?**

**Answer:**

The Food Corporation of India is a government agency which purchases food grains from the farmers wherever they are in surplus.

**Question 18.**

**What do you mean by minimum support price?**

**Answer:**

Minimum support price is the minimum price of food grains which is declared by the government every year before the sowing season, to provide incentives to the farmers for raising the production of crops.

**Question 19.**

**Define issue price.**

**Answer:**

Issue price is the price at which the government provides food grains to the poorer strata of the society through Public Distribution System.

**Question 20.**

**What do you mean by Public Distribution System?**

**Answer:**

The food procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer sections of the society. This system is known as Public Distribution System.

**Question 21.**

**What are Fair Price Shops?**

**Answer:**

Fair Price Shops are the ration shops which have been opened by the government to provide food grains to the poorer strata of the society.

**Question 22.**

**Which items are commonly sold at Fair Price Shops?**

**Answer:**

Items such as food grains, sugar and kerosene oil for cooking are commonly sold at Fair Price Shops.

**Question 23.**

**Which kind of ration cards are for the poorest of the poor?**

**Answer:**

Antyodaya Cards

**Question 24.**

**Name the ration card used for the people living below the poverty line and for all others.**

**Answer:**

BPL cards are used for people living below the poverty line and APL cards are used for all others.

**Question 25.**

**When was rationing system introduced in India?**

**Answer:**

The rationing system was introduced in India in 1940s after the disastrous 'Famine of Bengal'.

**Question 26.**

**Which important food intervention programmes were introduced by the Indian government after NS SO report?**

**Answer:**

**The programmes which were introduced are:**

1. Public Distribution System
2. Integrated Child Development Services
3. Food For Work Programme

**Question 27.**

**Mention any two programmes initiated by the government having food component in them.**

**Answer:**

Mid-day Meal and Integrated Child Development Services

**Question 28.**

**What is the National Food Security Act 2013?**

**Answer:**

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

**Question 29.**

**Which is the most important step taken by the government of India to ensure food security?**

**Answer:**

Public Distribution System (PDS)

**Question 30.**

**Define subsidy.**

**Answer:**

Subsidy is a payment that a government makes to a producer to supplement the market price of a commodity.

**Question 31.**

**What is the status of per capita consumption of PDS rice and wheat in rural and urban India since 2004-05?**

**Answer:**

Per capita consumption of PDS rice has doubled in rural India and increased by 66% in urban India since 2004-05. The per capita consumption of PDS wheat has doubled since 2004-05 in both rural and urban India.

**Question 32.**

**What are cooperative societies?**

**Answer:**

The cooperative societies are the societies which are run by local people. They provide public with the basic necessities of life such as foodgrains, milk and vegetables at reasonable rates.

**Question 33.**

**Name the revolution brought about by Amul.**

**Answer:**

White Revolution

**Question 34.**

**Where is the Academy of Development Science located?**

**Answer:**

Maharashtra

**Question 35.**

**Which programme is acknowledged as the successful and innovative food security intervention?**

**Answer:**

The Academy of Development Science's 'Grain Bank Programme' is the successful and innovative food security intervention programme.

## **Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]**

**Question 36.**

**Explain the major dimensions of food security.**

**Answer:**

**The major dimensions of food security are:**

1. **Availability of food.** It means food production within the country, food imports, along with previous years' stock stored in government granaries.
2. **Accessibility.** It means food is within the reach of every person.
3. **Affordability.** It implies having enough money to buy sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet one's dietary needs.

**Question 37.**

**How is food security ensured in a country?**

**Answer:**

**Food security is ensured in a country when:**

1. Enough food is available for all.
2. All persons have the capacity to buy food of acceptable quality.
3. There is no barrier to access of food.

**Question 38.**

**How is food security affected during a calamity?**

**Answer:**

During a calamity, the total production of food grains decreases. It creates a shortage of food in the affected areas. Due to shortage of food, the prices of commodities go up. At higher prices, some people cannot afford to buy the food. If such a calamity happens in a very wide area or is stretched over a long time, it may lead to a situation of starvation.

**Question 39.**

**‘Food security is essential in India.’ Justify the statement.**

**Answer:**

Food security is essential in India in the wake of natural disasters or calamities like floods, tsunami, earthquakes and famines. Due to natural and national calamities, the total production of food grains decreases which creates a food shortage. As a result of food shortage, the price of food grains goes up. It affects the population of the country, which may suffer from starvation. Massive starvation might take the form of a famine like the Famine of Bengal in 1943 But even today, famine like conditions exist in Odisha. Starvation deaths are reported from states like Rajasthan, Jharkhand and some remote areas.

All this calls for essential food security in the country to ensure food availability at all times without interruption.

**Question 40.**

**What is a famine? Who were the most affected by the famine of Bengal?**

**Answer:**

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. The people who were the most affected by the famine of Bengal were agricultural labourers, fishermen, transport workers and other casual labourers.

**Question 41.**

**‘The food insecure people are disproportionately large in some regions of the country.’ Explain.**

**Answer:**

The economically backward states such as Uttar Pradesh (eastern and south-eastern parts), Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and some parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account for largest number of food insecure people in the country. The tribal and remote areas are highly prone to poverty whereas regions more prone to natural disasters are vulnerable to poverty.

**Question 42.**

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

**Answer:**

Seasonal hunger is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting whereas chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of

quantity or quality.

People suffer from seasonal hunger in rural areas because of seasonal nature of agricultural activities and because of casual labour in the urban areas whereas poor people suffer from chronic hunger because of very low income and thereby inability to buy food even for survival.

### **Question 43.**

**What are the functions of the Food Corporation of India?**

**Or**

**Mention the activities of the Food Corporation of India.**

**Answer:**

**The functions/activities of the Food Corporation of India are:**

1. It safeguards the interests of the farmers by providing them remunerative prices for their foodgrain.
2. It maintains an adequate level of foodgrains to ensure stocks are available on any mishappening or calamity.
3. It allows the government to intervene in the food grains market for price stabilisation.

### **Question 44.**

**How does Public Distribution System ensure food security in India? Explain.**

**Answer:**

The Public Distribution System ensures food security in India through government regulated ration shops among the poorer sections of the society. These ration shops, known as 'Fair Price Shops', are present in most localities, villages, towns and cities. They keep stocks of food grains, sugar and kerosene oil for cooking purposes. These items are sold to public at a price lower than the market price. Any family with a ration card can buy a stipulated amount of these items like thirty-five kg of grains, five litres of kerosene, five kg of sugar etc. every month from the nearby ration shops.

### **Question 45.**

**Examine the activities of ration shops.**

**Answer:**

The activities performed by the ration shops are:

1. They distribute the items like food grains, sugar, kerosene and edible oil to the holders of the ration cards.



2. They maintain a stock register of the items which they receive and distribute.
3. They keep a check on the quality of the items to be distributed to the cardholders.

**Question 46.**

**Explain the role of co-operatives in providing food and related items in different parts of the country.**

**Answer:**

The cooperative societies set up shops to sell low priced goods to poor people, such as Mother Dairy in Delhi is rapidly growing in providing milk and vegetables to the consumers at controlled prices, announced by the government of Delhi.

Another success story of cooperatives lies in Amul, a cooperative, dealing with milk and milk products from Gujarat. It has brought about 'White Revolution' in the country.

These cooperatives are functioning in various parts of the country to ensure food security to various sections of the society.

## **Long Answer Type Questions [5 Marks]**

**Question 47.**

**Explain about the people who are food insecure in India.**

**Answer:**

1. In rural areas, the people more prone to food insecurity are:
  1. Landless farmers
  2. Traditional artisans,
  3. Petty self-employed workers
  4. Destitutes including beggars
2. In urban areas, the people more prone to food insecurity are:
  1. Casual labourers
  2. Workers employed in low-paid occupations
  3. Workers employed in seasonal activities
3. Food insecure people also include SCs, STs and some sections of OBCs (lower castes among them).

4. The people who are living in economically backward states with high poverty, tribal, remote areas and regions more prone to natural disasters also fall under the food insecure.

**Question 48.**

**How does social inability to buy food also play a critical role in food insecurity?**

**Answer:**

Indian social composition is very complex such as.

1. There are sections in the society which face the problem of low productivity like small land owners, traditional artisans, destitutes etc. and hence are not able to access food security.
  2. Some sections of people live in absolute poverty due to their low social status in the society like SCs, STs and OBCs. Food for such sections is a luxury.
  3. At the same time, pregnant and nursing mothers and children below the age of five years are more vulnerable to food access.
  4. Those employed in ill-paid jobs, casual labour market are also unable to procure food for themselves and their family.
  5. People affected by natural disasters and who migrate in search of work are also food insecure.
- (any three)

**Question 49.**

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

**Answer:**

**The Green Revolution has led to:**

1. **Increase in agricultural products.** Green Revolution has resulted in phenomenal increase in the production of agricultural crops especially in foodgrains.
2. **Rural employment.** While on one hand, large scale unemployment was feared due to mechanisation of farming with the introduction of Green Revolution technology in India, there was an appreciable increase in the demand for labour force due to multiple cropping and use of fertilisers.
3. **Industrial growth.** Green Revolution brought about large scale farm mechanisation which created demand for different types of machines like tractors, harvesters, threshers, electric motors, pump-sets etc. Besides, demand for chemical fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides etc. has also increased

considerably. Consequently, industries producing these items have progressed by leaps and bound.

4. **Prosperity of farmers.** With the increase in farm production, the earnings of the farmers also increased and they have become prosperous. This has, especially, been the case with big farmers having more than 10 hectares of land.
5. **Reduction in import of food grains.** The main benefit of Green Revolution was the increase in the production of food grains, as a result of which there was a drastic reduction in the Indian imports. India is now self-sufficient in food grains and has sufficient stock in the central pool.  
(any three)

### Question 50.

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

#### Answer:

The government has designed the food security system carefully to ensure availability of food to all sections of the society. The system is composed of two components, i.e.,

1. Buffer Stock
2. Public Distribution System (PDS)

In addition to the above, the government has launched several Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs) that comprise a component of food security. Some of these programmes are Mid-day Meals, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Food For Work (FFW).

**The two schemes launched by the government in this direction are:**

1. **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).** This scheme was launched in December 2000. Under this scheme, one crore of the poorer among the BPL families, to be covered by the Public Distribution System, were identified. Twenty-five kilograms of food grains were made available to each of the – eligible family at a highly subsidised rate. After about two years, the quantity was enhanced from twenty-five kg to thirty-five kg. In June 2003 and August 2004, an additional fifty lakh families were added to this scheme twice. In this way, about two crore families have been brought under the AAY.
2. **Annapurna Scheme (APS).** It was launched in 2000 with special target group of ‘indigent senior citizens’. The functioning of scheme was linked

with existing network of the PDS. Under this scheme, 10 kg of food grains were made available to them free of cost.

**Question 51.**

**Why is the buffer stock created by the government?**

**Answer:**

Buffer stock is created by the government to ensure availability of food to all the sections of the society. It helps to resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during the periods of calamity.

**Question 52.**

**Explain Buffer Stock and activities related to the creation of Buffer Stock.**

**Answer:**

Buffer Stock is the stock of foodgrains like wheat and rice that is procured by the government through Food Corporation of India to resolve the problem of shortage of food grains because of adverse weather conditions or periods of calamity. The activities related to the creation of buffer stocks are:

1. The government procures food grains through the Food Corporation of India from the farmers producing surplus.
2. Pre-announced price called the Minimum Support Price is paid to the farmers.
3. The purchased food grains are stored in the granaries maintained by the Food Corporation of India.

**Question 53.**

**What is the rationing system?**

**Answer:**

The rationing system is a system of distribution of scarce resources in a controlled way. This system began in India in 1940s against the backdrop of Bengal famine. In India, certain food grains, sugar, kerosene and cereals are distributed through a network of fair price shops to those living under or above the poverty line at subsidised rates to ensure food security. Any family with a ration card can buy a stipulated amount of these items every month at a price lower than the market price. The main objective of the rationing system is the eradication of poverty and making availability of desired quantity of food to every household, who cannot afford it.