

Chapter-4

Food Security in India

2MARKS

1. How is food security ensured in India?

Answer:

Food security in India is ensured when three dimensions of food security are taken care of. The three dimensions are:

Availability of food – Presence of enough food for each and every citizen.

Accessibility of food – When there is no barrier to access food.

Affordability of food – The Capability of all persons to buy quality food.

3. Which states are more food insecure in India?

Answer:

There are many economically backward states with high poverty and more food insecurity in India. The states like Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh (eastern and south-eastern parts), Orissa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, some parts of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra have the highest number of food-insecure people in India.

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

Answer:

The Green Revolution was introduced in the 1960s so that Indian farmers can cultivate (HYVs) seeds. The HYVs which are coupled with chemical fertilisers and pesticides has led to a growth in the productivity of food grains, helping India to attain self-sufficiency in food grains. the Green Revolution, India.

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

Answer:

Despite a large increase in food grain production, we find people without food in India. Poor people suffer from chronic hunger. They find themselves unable to buy food. More than one-fifth of the country's population suffers from chronic hunger.

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

Answer:

When a disaster or a calamity occurs, then the production of food grains decreases in the affected areas, which creates a shortage of food in the area. Since there is a food shortage, the prices go up. The raised prices of food affect the capacity of common people to buy the same. When the calamity occurs in an area that is spread widely or over a long period of time, it may cause a situation of starvation. Massive starvation has the capability to take the form of a famine.

5marks

1. What happens to the supply of food when there is a disaster or calamity?

Answer:

When there is a disaster or calamity, the production and cultivation of food grains are highly affected. The production decreases, and this causes a shortage of food grains and, ultimately the hiked prices of food grains. The region affected by calamity might also turn into a food-insecure state if the calamity lasts for a longer period of time.

2. Differentiate between seasonal hunger and chronic hunger?

Answer:

Hunger is one of the most important aspects indicating food security. Hunger results in poverty, and there are two dimensions of hunger – one is seasonal hunger and the other is chronic hunger.

The type of hunger that exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year is called seasonal hunger. 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.

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.

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

Answer:

The government has launched various schemes for the welfare of the people and to provide food security to the poor. Two such schemes are Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme (APS).

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) – Launched in the year 2000, under this scheme, one crore of the poorest among the below-poverty-line families covered under the targeted public distribution system were identified, and 25 kg of food grains were provided to each eligible family at a highly subsidised rate of Rs. 2 per kg wheat and Rs. 3 per kg of rice. The scheme was further expanded in the year 2003, and close to 50 lakh families below the poverty line were provided with food grains.

Annapurna Scheme (APS) – Launched in the year 2000, the scheme aims to provide food to the senior citizens who have remained uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme. The eligibility for an applicant is that they should be 65 years or above in age.

4. Why buffer stock is created by the government?

Answer:

A buffer stock of food grains is created by the government so that it can be distributed in the food deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price much lower than the market price. A buffer stock also helps to resolve the problem of food shortage during adverse weather conditions, disasters or calamities. Thus, maintaining buffer stock is a step taken by the government in order to ensure food security.

7MARKS

1. What are the problems of the functioning of ration shops?

Answer:

Ration shops, also known as Fair Price Shops, keep stock of food grains, sugar, and kerosene for cooking. These items are sold to people at a price lower than the market price. However, there are problems with the functioning of the ration shops:

1. The quality of food provided to poor people is less than the expected quality of food grains.
2. The ration shop deals indulge in malpractices and do not provide the poor people with the entire quantity they deserve.
3. Some ration shops are not opened regularly, and this causes discomfort to the poor.
4. The ration shopkeepers even update wrong entries in the name of the poor people.

2. Write a note on the role of cooperatives in providing food and related items.

Answer:

Along with the government, cooperatives also play an important role in ensuring 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 the poor. Out of all fair-price shops running in Tamil Nadu, around 94 per cent are being run by cooperatives. Mother Dairy, in Delhi, is involved in providing milk and vegetables at controlled rates decided by the government. Amul, responsible for the White Revolution in India, is a cooperative involved in providing milk and milk products. The Academy of Development Science (ADS) in Maharashtra has been involved in the setting up of Grain Banks in different regions. It organises training and capacity-building programmes on food security for NGOs. Its efforts are also

directed towards influencing the government's policy on food security. Thus, through these examples, it can be seen that cooperatives are playing an active role in the distribution of food and related items.

3. Write notes on:

Answer:

(a) Minimum support price – The Food Corporation of India 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. This price is called Minimum Support Price. Before the sowing season every year, the government announces the MSP, and the purchased food grains are stored in granaries.

(b) Buffer stock – Buffer stock is the stock of food grains, mainly wheat and rice, procured by the Government through the Food Corporation of India. This buffer stock is used by the government in case of any calamity or disaster or for the poorer section of society.

(c) Issue price – Food is kept in stocks in the form of buffer stock to distribute food grains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of the society at a price lower than the market. This price is also known as the Issue Price.

(d) Fair price shops – Ration shops, also known as Fair Price Shops, keep stock of food grains, sugar, and kerosene for cooking. These items are sold to people at a price lower than the market price. Any family with a ration card can buy a stipulated amount of these items every month from the nearby ration shop.

Choose the correct answer

1. Which of the following is not a component of food security?

- a) Availability
- b) Affordability
- c) Accessibility
- d) Sustainability

answer:(d)

2. Which organization is responsible for maintaining buffer stock of food grains in India?

- a) Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- b) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- c) National Food Security Act (NFSA)
- d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

answer:(a)

3. Which scheme provides food grains at subsidized rates to the economically weaker sections of society in India?

- a) Mid-Day Meal Scheme
- b) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)
- c) National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
- d) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

answer:(d)

4. Which state in India first launched the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for providing food security to the poorest of the poor?

- a) Kerala
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Rajashtan
- d) Uttar Pradesh

answer:(c)

5. Which of the following is not a method to increase agricultural production?

- a) Crop rotation
- b) Organic farming
- c) Genetically modified crops
- d) Minimizing the use of fertilizers

answer:(d)

6. The Green Revolution in India focused on improving the production of:

- a) Wheat and rice
- b) Pulses and oilseeds
- c) Fruits and vegetables
- d) Millets and sorghum

answer:(a)

7. Which organization is responsible for implementing the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in India?

- a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- b) Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- c) Ministry of Education (MoE)
- d) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

answer:(c)

8. What does Minimum Support Price (MSP) refer to?

- a) The price at which farmers sell their produce in the market
- b) The price at which the government purchases crops from farmers
- c) The price at which food grains are sold in fair price shops
- d) The price at which exports of agricultural products are allowed

answer:(b)

9. Which of the following is an example of a food surplus state in India?

- a) Bihar
- b) Punjab
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Odisha

answer:(b)

fill in the blanks

1. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) was established in 1955
2. West Bengal state has the highest production of rice in India
3. Lack of technological advancements in agriculture is not a challenge to food security in India
4. The National Food Security Act (NFSA) was passed in India in 2013 year.
5. To improve the nutritional status of children below the age of six is the objective of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme?