

04. Food Security in India

01. What are the dimensions of food security?

Food security has three dimensions:

1. Availability of food – Food production within the country, food imports, and buffer stock.
 2. Accessibility of food – Food must be within reach of every person.
 3. Affordability of food – People should have enough income to buy food.
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02. Why do we need food security?

Food security is needed to ensure that all people get enough safe and nutritious food at all times to lead a healthy life. It also helps prevent hunger, starvation, and famine, especially during crises.

03. How is food security affected during calamity?

During calamities like droughts, floods, or earthquakes:

- Food production declines.
 - Food prices rise sharply.
 - Poor people lose income and cannot afford food.
This leads to food insecurity and sometimes famine.
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04. Do you think India is now self-sufficient in food production? Explain.

Yes, India is now largely self-sufficient in food production.

- After the Green Revolution, foodgrain production increased significantly.
 - India produces enough wheat and rice to meet domestic needs.
 - The government maintains buffer stock to deal with shortages.
However, food insecurity still exists due to poverty and unequal distribution.
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05. What buffer norms are to be followed by the government? What is a Fair Price Shop (FPS)?

The government follows the following buffer norms:

- It must maintain a minimum fixed stock of food grains throughout the year.

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- The stock is kept according to different seasons to meet public distribution needs.
- The buffer stock is used during emergencies and to control food prices.

A Fair Price Shop is a government-authorised shop set up under the Public Distribution System that sells essential food items like rice and wheat at subsidised prices to ration card holders, especially poor families.

06. How does social inability to buy food also play a role in food security?

Social inability such as poverty or unemployment limits a person's capacity to buy food. As a result, even when food is available in the market, people are unable to access it, which affects food security.

07. What is 'Buffer Stock'? Why was it created?

Buffer stock refers to the stock of foodgrains like wheat and rice procured by the government.

It was created to:

- Distribute food during shortages
 - Stabilise food prices
 - Provide food through PDS during emergencies
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08. What is the rationing system?

The rationing system is a system where the government supplies essential food items at fixed prices to people through ration cards, especially during shortages.

09. Write five features of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

- The Public Distribution System is a government-run system for distributing food grains.
 - It provides essential commodities at subsidised prices.
 - Food grains are distributed through a network of Fair Price Shops.
 - It ensures food security for poor and vulnerable sections of society.
 - It helps in controlling food prices and preventing hoarding.
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10. What is the role of co-operatives in food security?

- Cooperatives provide food grains and essential items at reasonable prices, especially in rural and remote areas.
 - They help in reducing exploitation by private traders and ensure regular availability of food to members.
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11. Who are food insecure in India? What is their social composition?

Food insecure people in India include:

- Landless agricultural labourers
- Small and marginal farmers
- Urban poor, casual labourers

Their social composition mainly includes Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and backward classes, especially women and children.

Sources: NCERT Textbook – Economics (Some content may be exact match)
VP Pandey Sir – Economics and Political Teacher, BMSSS (Questions only)
ChatGPT – By OpenAI (Answers Only)