


## ◆ What is Food Security?

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



 **Dimensions of Food Security:**

1. **Availability** → Enough food is produced/stored/imported
2. **Accessibility** → Food must be physically within reach
3. **Affordability** → People should have enough money to buy nutritious food

 **Ensured when:**

- Food is available for everyone
  - Everyone can afford it
  - No barrier exists in access
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## ◆ Why Is Food Security Needed?


-  Poor people face food insecurity all the time
-  Even non-poor people may suffer during disasters like droughts, floods, pandemics, war, etc.

 **Example: Bengal Famine of 1943**

- 30 lakh people died due to starvation
  - Food was available but poor couldn't afford it (mainly labourers and daily-wage earners)
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## ◆ Who Are Food Insecure?

 **Rural:**

- Landless workers, artisans, self-employed petty workers  **Urban:**
- Casual laborers with irregular jobs, low wages

 **Socially vulnerable groups:**

- SC, ST, women (especially pregnant women), and malnourished children

 **NHFS 1998–99: 11 crore malnourished women and children under 5 years**

 **States with high food insecurity:**

- Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, parts of Maharashtra and West Bengal
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## ◆ Types of Hunger

1. **Chronic Hunger:**
  - Long-term lack of food (due to low income)

## 2. Seasonal Hunger:

- Occurs in lean seasons when farm/agricultural work is not available (monsoon, between sowing and harvesting)

## Trend:


- Hunger has reduced significantly (see Table 4.2 in textbook)
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# ◆ India's Journey to Food Security

## ● Green Revolution:

- Introduced in 1960s, helped increase production of wheat and rice
- India became self-sufficient in foodgrains


## 1968: "Wheat Revolution" stamp released

 Foodgrains production in 2016–17: ~275 million tonnes

 Main producers: UP, MP (wheat), West Bengal (rice)

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# ◆ Government Measures for Food Security

 Food Security System = 2 Key Components:

## 1. Buffer Stock:

- Extra stock of wheat and rice procured by FCI (Food Corporation of India)
- Bought from farmers at Minimum Support Price (MSP)
- Stored for emergencies, calamities, and distribution to poor

## Definitions:


- **MSP:** Government-set price to ensure fair income for farmers
- **Issue Price:** Price at which food is sold through ration shops

## 2. Public Distribution System (PDS):

- Food grains distributed to poor via ration shops (Fair Price Shops)
- 5.5 lakh ration shops in India
- Items include rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene at subsidised rates

## Types of Ration Cards:

- **AAY** (Antyodaya) – Poorest families
- **BPL** – Below Poverty Line
- **APL** – Above Poverty Line

 Example: Ahmad the rickshaw puller — manages to feed his family due to yellow ration card (PDS)

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## ◆ Major Food Security Schemes:-

Scheme	Year	Beneficiaries	Features
PDS	till 1992	Universal	Uniform access to grains
RPDS	1992	Backward blocks	Focused on remote areas
TPDS	1997	BPL and APL	Differential pricing
AAY	2000	Poorest families	35 kg of grains/month @ ₹2 (wheat), ₹3 (rice)
APS	2000	Indigent senior citizens	10 kg free foodgrains
NFSA	2013	75% rural, 50% urban	5 kg per person/month @ ₹2-3/kg (wheat/rice)

📷 Table 4.3 (textbook): Shows complete comparison

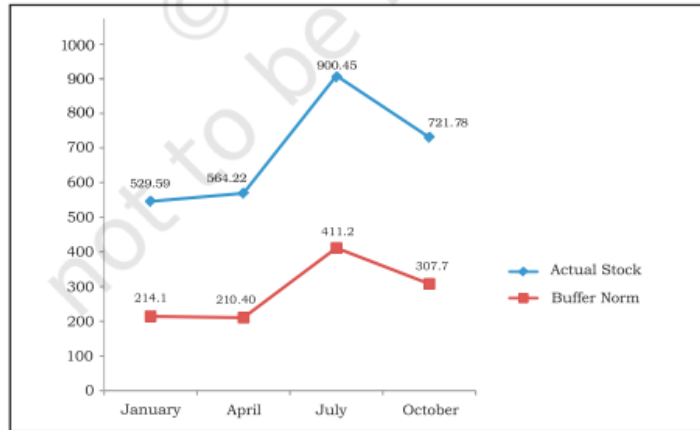
## ◆ Issues with PDS and MSP System

### 🏠 Problems:

- FCI has surplus foodgrain but hunger still exists
- Poor grain quality, corruption, and black marketing
- Some ration shops remain shut or sell in open market

- High MSP = increased procurement → hoarding → rising storage costs
- Rice cultivation in Punjab/Haryana → water overuse → environmental damage

**Graph 4.2:** Central Foodgrains (Wheat + Rice) Stock and Minimum Buffer Norm (Million Tonnes)



**Source:** Food Corporation and India ([dfpd.gov.in/foodgrain-stocking](http://dfpd.gov.in/foodgrain-stocking)), 2020-21  
(Accessed on 29/09/2021)

Graph 4.2 (textbook): Shows FCI stocks vs. buffer norms

## ◆ Role of Cooperatives

Cooperatives help distribute essential goods at fair prices

Examples:

- **Tamil Nadu:** 94% ration shops run by cooperatives
- **Delhi:** Mother Dairy (milk, vegetables)
- **Gujarat:** AMUL (milk revolution)
- **Maharashtra:** ADS (NGO-led Grain Banks)

They ensure food security in rural and tribal areas where PDS might be weak.

## Summary:

Food security is a basic right — needed always, especially during disasters

Food security in India is maintained via:

- Buffer stock by FCI
- Public Distribution System
- Welfare Schemes (Mid-Day Meal, ICDS, Food-for-Work) Challenges remain: corruption, poor grain quality, excess stock, high costs
- Cooperatives and NGOs play an important support role