

1. How is food security insured in India?

Ans: It is ensured through Food Corporation of India and public distribution system established by the government.

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

Ans: (i) People more prone to food insecurity are women, children and old age people.
(ii) SCs, STs and OBCs are also more prone to food insecurity.
(iii) People in disaster prone area are also food insecure.

3. Identify the states that are more food insecure in India.

Ans: (i) 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 and regions more prone to natural disasters.
(ii) The states of Uttar Pradesh (eastern and south-eastern parts), Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account, for the largest number of food insecure people in the country.

4. Do you believe that Green Revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains? How?

Ans: There has been a phenomenal increase in production of food grains during the period of 1960s and 1970s.

From importer of food grains Indian has become exporter of food grains. Green revolution has led to tremendous increase in the production of food grains specially in wheat and rice.

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

Ans. (i) 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 etc. a large section of people suffer from food and nutrition insecurity in India.
(ii) The worst affected groups are landless people with little or no land to depend upon, traditional artisans, and providers of traditional services, petty self-employed workers and destitute including beggars.
(iii) In the urban areas, the food insecure families are those whose working members are generally employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labour market.

(iv) These workers are largely engaged in seasonal activities and are paid very low wages that just ensure bare survival.

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

- Ans.**
- (i) Due to a natural calamity, say drought, total production of food grains decreases.
 - (ii) It creates a shortage of food in the affected areas.
 - (iii) Due to shortage of food, the prices go up.
 - (iv) At the high prices, some people cannot afford to buy food. If such calamity happens in a very wide spread area or is stretched over a longer time period, it may cause a situation of starvation.
 - (v) A massive starvation might take a turn of famine. A famine is characterized by wide spread 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.

7. What has our Government done to provide food security to the poor?

Ans: Public Distribution System (PDS) is the most important step taken by the Government of India (GOI) towards ensuring food security.

- (i) In the beginning, the coverage of PDS was universal with no discrimination between the poor and non-poor.
- (ii) Over the years, the policy related to PDS has been revised to make it more efficient and targeted.
- (iii) In 1992, Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was introduced in 1,700 blocks in the country. The target was to provide the benefits of PDS to remote and backward areas.
- (iv) From June 1997, in a renewed attempt, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced to adopt the principle of targeting the 'poor in all areas.' It was for the first time that a differential price policy was adopted for the poor and non-poor.
- (v) Further in 2000, two special schemes were launched viz., Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and the Annapurna Scheme (APS), with special target groups of 'poorest of the poor' and 'indigent senior citizens' respectively. The functioning of these two schemes was linked with the existing network of the PDS.

8. Define Buffer stock.

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

wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production at a minimum support price.

9. Define Minimum Support Price.

Ans. 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.

10. Define Issue Price.

Ans. To distribute food grains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price also known as Issue Price.

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

Ans.

- (i) PDS dealers are sometimes found resorting to malpractices like diverting the grains to open market to get better margin, selling poor quality grains at ration shops, irregular opening of the shops, etc.
- (ii) It is common to find that ration shops regularly have unsold stocks of poor quality grains left.

12. Discuss the role of cooperatives in Food Security.

Ans.

- (i) The cooperatives are also playing an important role in food security in India.
- (ii) Cooperative societies set up shops to sell low priced goods to poor people.
- (iii) In Delhi, Mother Dairy is making strides in provision of milk and vegetables to the consumers at controlled rate decided by Government of Delhi.
- (iv) Amul is another success story of cooperatives in milk and milk products from Gujarat.
- (v) Academy of Development Science (ADS) has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different regions.
- (vi) Grain Banks are now slowly taking shape in different parts of Maharashtra.