



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX	Department: Social Science	Sub: ECONOMICS
Chapter-4 Question Bank:4	Topic: Food Security in India	Year: 2025-26

1	<p>What do you understand about food security? Describe its main dimensions.</p> <p>Ans.</p> <p>Food security means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times. Food security has following dimensions: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Availability: Adequate food production within the country, food imports, and storage in government granaries.• Accessibility: Food should be within reach of every individual.• Affordability: People must have enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food.								
2	<p>Which are the people more prone to food insecurity?</p> <p>Ans.</p> <p>(a) In rural areas, the people more prone to food security are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) landless farmers(ii) traditional artisans(iii) self-employed workers(iv) Destitute including beggars. <p>(b) In urban areas,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Casual labourers(ii) workers employed in low-paid occupations(iii) workers employed in seasonal activities <p>(c) It also includes SCs, STs and some sections of the OBCs (lower castes among them).</p> <p>(d) A large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under the age of 5 years constitute an important segment.</p> <p>(e) The people who are living in economically backward states, tribal and remote areas, regions more prone to natural disasters etc. also fall under food insecure. For example: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Chattisgarh etc.</p>								
3	<p>Differentiate between Chronic hunger and Seasonal hunger.</p> <p>Ans.</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Chronic Hunger</th><th>Seasonal hunger</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>It is caused by constantly getting food of poor quality or low in quantity</td><td>It is caused by getting food of poor quality or low in quantity during a specific time of the year.</td></tr><tr><td>It happens because of very low income and inability to buy food even for survival.</td><td>It is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting</td></tr><tr><td>It exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year</td><td>In rural areas, it is found due to the seasonal nature of agricultural activities.</td></tr></tbody></table>	Chronic Hunger	Seasonal hunger	It is caused by constantly getting food of poor quality or low in quantity	It is caused by getting food of poor quality or low in quantity during a specific time of the year.	It happens because of very low income and inability to buy food even for survival.	It is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting	It exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year	In rural areas, it is found due to the seasonal nature of agricultural activities.
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In urban areas, it is found mainly among the casual labourers because of less work during a particular season.

4	<p>Explain the concept of buffer stock and its purpose.</p> <p>Ans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buffer Stock is the stock of foodgrains, namely wheat and rice, procured by the government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI).• The FCI 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 (MSP), which is announced before the sowing season.• The purchased foodgrains are stored in granaries to distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas and among the poorer section of the society at a price lower than the market price also known as Issue Price.
5	<p>What is the Public Distribution System (PDS)?</p> <p>Ans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer section of the society. This is called the Public Distribution System (PDS).• Ration shops are known as Fair Price Shops, which keep the stock of foodgrains, sugar, and kerosene.• These items are sold to people at a price lower than the market price, also known as Issue Price.• Any family with a ration card can buy a stipulated amount of these items (e.g. 35 kg of grains, 5 litres of kerosene, 5 kgs of sugar etc.).
6	<p>How did food rationing and food security programmes develop in India?</p> <p>Ans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rationing in India began during the Bengal famine of the 1940s.• The rationing system was revived in the 1960s due to food shortages before the Green Revolution.• In the mid-1970s, poverty reports led to the launch of PDS, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), and Food-for-Work programmes (FFW).• Over time, food security programmes were expanded and restructured to improve their effectiveness. Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs) in rural areas added food components and strengthened food security.• Today, programmes like PDS, mid-day meals, and employment schemes strengthen food security by providing food and income support.
7	<p>Describe the current status of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India.</p> <p>Ans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Public Distribution System (PDS) is an important programme of the Government of India to ensure food security.• In the beginning, the coverage of PDS was universal with no discrimination between the poor and the non-poor.• In 1992, Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was introduced to provide the benefits of PDS to remote and backward areas.• In 1997, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched to focus mainly on

	<p>poor households. It was for the first time that a differential price policy was adopted for poor and non-poor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2000, two special schemes were launched viz., Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme (APS) with special target groups of ‘poorest of the poor’ and ‘indigent senior citizens’, respectively.
8	<p>Discuss the key benefits of the Public Distribution System (PDS) for consumers and farmers. OR Discuss the advantages of PDS.</p> <p>Ans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It makes food available at affordable prices. • It reduces hunger and famine by supplying food from surplus regions to deficit areas. • It provides income security to farmers. • It helps in stabilizing food prices • Benefits poor households through lower prices • The minimum support price and procurement has contributed to an increase in food grain production.
9	<p>Discuss the disadvantages of the Public Distribution System in ensuring food security. OR What are the problems of the functioning of ration shops?</p> <p>Ans.</p> <p>The disadvantages of PDS are as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCI godowns are overflowing with grains, with some grains rotting away and some are eaten by rats. • High buffer stocks are wasteful as they increase storage costs and cause wastage and deterioration in grain quality. • PDS dealers sometimes divert foodgrains to the open market to earn more profit. • Dealers open the ration shops at irregular times and sell poor quality grains at ration shops. • High MSP and over-procurement increase the government’s burden • Increase in MSP has induced farmers to divert land from production of coarse grains (food of the poor) to rice and wheat. • Earlier, all families got ration items at the same low price, but under TPDS, APL (Above Poverty Line) families get very little discount. • The price for APL families is almost as high as open market price. So, there is little incentive for them to buy these items.

10	<p>What is Antyodaya Anna Yojana? Mention its role in ensuring food security in the country.</p> <p>Ans:</p> <p>AAY was launched in December 2000. This scheme plays an important role in ensuring food security in the country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under this scheme one crore of the poorest among the BPL families were covered. • Poor families were identified by the respective state rural development departments through a Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey. • 35 kgs of foodgrains are made available to each eligible family at a highly subsidized rate of ₹ 2 per kg for wheat and ₹3 per kg for rice. • The scheme has been further expanded twice in 2003 and in 2004. With this increase, 2 crore families have been covered under the AAY.
11	<p>Explain the significance of co-operatives and related initiatives in promoting food security across different states.</p> <p>Ans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cooperatives are playing an important role in food security especially in the southern and western parts of the country. They set up shops to sell low priced goods to poor people. <p>For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Tamil Nadu, around 94% of fair price shops are run by co-operatives. • In Delhi, Mother Dairy supplies milk and vegetables at controlled rates decided by the Delhi Government. • In Gujarat, Amul is a co-operative in milk and milk products that led the White Revolution in India. • In Maharashtra, Academy of Development Science (ADS) facilitated grain banks through NGOs. The ADS Grain Bank programme is a successful and innovative step to improve food security.