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FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Points have to be explained if necessary)

1. What were the main features of National Food for Work Programme ? (2016)

- Ans.**
- 1) NFWP was launched in 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country.
 - 2) The programme is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment & desire to do manual unskilled work.
 - 3) It is implemented on a 100% centrally sponsored scheme and food grains are provided free of cost to the states.

2. Who are food insecure in urban areas ? What are the reasons of their food insecurity ? (2016)

- Ans.** In the urban areas, the food insecure families are those whose working members are generally employed in ill paid occupations and casual labour market.

The reasons of their food insecurity are :

- a) These workers are largely engaged in seasonal activities.
- b) They are paid very low wages that just ensure bare survival.

3. "India is aiming self sufficiency in food grains since independence". Explain. (2016)

- Ans.** After independence Indian planners adopted a new strategy in agriculture which resulted in 'Green Revolution' in the production of wheat and rice. The increase in food grains was however, disproportionate. Punjab and Haryana experienced highest rate of growth in production of wheat. But the production in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa continued to stagger. But, since the advent of Green India has become self-sufficient in food grain because of a variety of crops grown all over the country.

4. Explain the role of Maharashtra Academy of Development Science (ADS). Mention any three points. (2016,2012)

- Ans.**
- a) Maharashtra Academy of Development Science (ADS) has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different region.
 - b) ADS organizes training and capacity building programmes on food security for NGOs.
 - c) Grain Banks are now slowly taking shape in different parts of Maharashtra.

d) The ADS Grain Bank Programme is acknowledged as a successful and innovative food security Intervention.

5. What has our government done to provide food security to the poor ? Give three important food intervention programmes introduced in Mid - 1970s. **(2016)**

Ans. India has a carefully designed food security system which has two components.

a) Buffer Stock : Buffer stock is the stock of food grains namely wheat and rice procured by the government through Food Corporation of India.

b) Public Distribution System 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. The three important food intervention programmes which were introduced in mid - 1970s were :-

i. Public Distribution System. (PDS)

ii. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

iii. Food For Work (FFW)

6. State three dimensions of food security ? **(2016)**

Ans. a) Availability of food : There should be enough stocks of food items in the country through good production, through imports or previous year's stock stored in government godowns.

b) Accessibility of food : Food should be within the reach of everybody.

c) Affordability of food : The prices of different food articles should be such that every individual is able to buy them. The food grain items should be within the reach of the people.

7. Name the three kinds of ration cards. **(2016,2014)**

Ans. a) Antyodaya cards for the poorest of the poor.

b) BPL cards for those below poverty line.

c) APL cards for all others.

8. What is meant by Buffer Stock ? Why is it created by the government ?

Ans. Buffer Stock of food grains, namely wheat and rice procured by the government through Food Corporation of India. It is created by the government.

Reason for creating it :

a) To distribute food grain in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than market price.

b) This helps resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during

c) the period of calamity.

9. Describe any three special features of Public Distribution System in India. **(2016)**

Ans. Features of Public Distribution System.

- a) The food produced the FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer section of the society.
- b) This is called the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- c) Ration shops are now present in most localities, villages, towns and cities. There are about 4.6 lakh ration shops all over the country.
- d) Ration shops also known as Fair Price Shops which keep stock of food grains, sugar kerosene oil for cooking.
- e) 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 (eg: 35 kg of grains, 5 liters of kerosene, 5 kgs of sugar, etc.) every month from the nearby ration shop.

10. Why are the food insecure people disproportionately large in some regions of the country ? Explain. **(2016,2013)**

- Ans.**
- a) There are economically backward states with high incidence of poverty.
 - b) There are tribal and remote areas.
 - c) There are regions more prone to disasters.
 - d) Parts of U.P, Bihar Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, etc.

11. Analyze any five problems in the functioning of ration shops. **(2016)**

Ans. Problems in the functioning of ration shops.

1. Found resorting to malpractices like diverting the grains to open market to get better margins.
2. Selling poor quality of food grain at ration shops.
3. Irregular opening of shops and very bad behaviour if they are asked about the grains in the shops. It is very common to find that ration shops regularly have unsold stock of poor quality grain.
4. A massive stock of poor quality of food grains.
5. The three types of ration cards.

12. How is food security affected during calamity ? Explain. **(2016,2015,2012)**

Ans. Food security is affected during calamity.

- Wide spread failure of crops.
- Production of food grain decreases.
- It creates shortage of food in the affected areas.
- Due to shortage of food grains, prices go up.

- At high prices, some people cannot afford to buy food.

13. Mention the functions of Food Corporation of India. **(2016,2012)**

Ans. Functions of Food Corporation of India.

- a) It procures grains from the farmers at prices fixed by the government.
- b) It stores the food grains.
- c) Distributes the food grains at subsidized prices.

14. Who are food insecure in India ? What is their social composition ? How are they scattered over in the country. **(2016)**

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

* The Social composition along with the inability to buy food also plays a role in food insecurity. The SCs, STs and some sections of the OBCs, who have either poor land base or very low land productivity are prone to food insecurity. The people affected by natural disasters who have to migrate to other areas in search of work, are also among the most food insecure people. A large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under the age of 5 years constitute an important segment of the food insecure population.

* The food insecure people are disproportionately scattered due to our large areas and regions in the country.

15. "A section of people in India are still without food ".Write your view about this statement. **(2015,2013)**

Ans. The reasons for this statements are :

- a) Tribal and remote areas are more prone to natural disasters.
- b) There are lot of landless, poor households in rural areas.
- c) Many ill paid labourers also can't afford to buy enough food.
- d) Those who have only seasonal employment, feel the scarcity of food.
- e) Very low land productivity is another reason for this situation.

16. "The co - operative societies are playing an important role in food security in India". Support the statement with suitable arguments. **(2015,2012)**

Ans. Role played by co-operatives in food security :

- a) The co-operative societies set up shops to sell goods at low price to poor people.
- b) In Delhi, Mother Dairy sells milk and vegetables at controlled rates.
- e) Amul has brought about the white revolution in the country.
- d) Grain banks set up to facilitate replication through other NGO's.
- e) They influence the government's policy on food security and thus paying rich dividends.

17. Who are said to be food insecure people in rural and urban areas of India ? Name the two states where largest number of food insecure people are found. **(2015)**

- Ans.** * In the rural areas food insecure people comprise of landless people, traditional artisans, self employed workers and beggars. In urban areas they include people employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labour, and workers engaged in seasonal activities.
- * Largest number of food insecure people are found in the state of UP, Bihar Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

18. What is the current status of the Public Distribution System in India ? Explain. **(2015)**

- Ans.** In the beginning the PDS facility was available for all the people. But later on only poor families in all the areas were given priority through the PDS. A dual price policy was adopted for the poor and non-poor. Two schemes like Anthodaya Yojana and the Annapurna scheme were also introduced through the PDS. PDS has helped to solve the problem of hunger and famine in and many parts of the country.

19. Evaluate the contribution of Green Revolution in achieving self-sufficiency in food grains. **(2015)**

- Ans.** a) India adopted a new strategy in agriculture which resulted in Green Revolution, especially in the production of wheat and rice. Since the advent of the Green Revolution with early 70's, the country has avoided famine even during adverse weather.
- b) The then prime minister of India officially recorded the success of Green revolution by realizing a special stamp entitled 'wheat revolution'.
- c) The highest rate of growth was achieved in Punjab and Haryana.
- d) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh recorded significant increase in rice production.

20. 'The PDS of India has proved to be the most effective instrument taken by the Government of India towards ensuring food security', Explain. **(2014)**

- Ans.** a) PD.S. has helped in stabilizing prices and making food available to consumers at an affordable price.
- b) Helped in averting wide spread hunger and famine by supplying food from surplus region to the deficit one.

- c) Prices have been under revision in favour of the poor household.
- d) It has contributed to an increase in food grain production and provided income security to farmers in certain regions.
- e) It is an important step taken by the government to ensure food security.

21. Ineffectiveness of Public Distribution system is mainly due to malfunctioning. Give examples.

(2014,2012)

Ans. Ineffectiveness of Public Distribution System :

- 1) The PDS does not reach many poor households. It supplies only 15% of total food grain consumption.
- 2) FCI godowns are also well stocked but the stocks are rotting or eaten by the rats.
- 3) PDS dealers resorting to malpractices and selling poor quality grains at ration shops.
- 4) Irregular opening of the shops.
- 5) It is plagued by high cost and leakage.

22. Describe the role of co-operatives in providing food and related items.

(2014)

- Ans.**
- 1) Role of Cooperatives in food security is recognized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
 - 2) The government alone cannot solve the problem of Food security and needs support of cooperatives that play an important role in developing a social capital in rural areas.
 - 3) In Tamil Nadu, around 94% of fair prices shops are being run by the cooperatives.
 - 4) Mother Dairy in Delhi and Amul are examples of the success of these cooperatives in ensuring food security to different sections of the society.
 - 5) A net work of NGO's grain banks and other cooperatives play an important role in influencing the government's policy on food security. Eg: Maharashtra Academy of Development Science (ADS) has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different regions.

23. Differentiate between chronic and seasonal hunger.

(2013)

Ans. a) Chronic hunger.

Diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and quality. Due to low income people are incapable of buying food even for survival.

- b) Seasonal hunger - It is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting. It is prevalent in rural areas because of seasonal nature of agricultural activities.

24. How can food security be ensured in a country ?

(2013)

Ans. The Food security is ensured in a country only if :

- a) Enough food is available for all the persons.
- b) All persons have the capacity to buy food.
- c) There is no barrier on access to food.

25. Why is there a need for food security in India ? Explain three reasons. **(2013)**

- Ans.**
- 1) The poorest section of the society are food insecure most of the times.
 - 2) The persons above the poverty line might also be food insecure when the country faces a national disaster, calamity like earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami, etc.
 - 3) Widespread failure of crops causing famine.

26. State any two main characteristics of a famine. Name the most devastating famine in India. **(2012)**

Ans. The two main characteristics of a famine are

- a) Widespread deaths due to starvation.
- b) Widespread of endemics caused by forced use of contaminated water decaying food.

The most devastating famine that occurred in India was the 'Famine of Bengal' in 1943.

27. Mention any five functions of Food Corporation of India. **(2012)**

- Ans.**
- 1. FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers.
 - 2. The farmers are paid a pre - announced price for their crops (Minimum support price).
 - 3. FCI stores the purchased grains to create buffer stock.
 - 4. FCI distributes food grains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price.
 - 5) FCI ensures that food crises is not created under any circumstances.

28. Explain the adverse impact upon supply of food grains during disaster. Write any three points. **(2012)**

Ans. When there is a disaster or calamity, total production of food grains decreases. It creates a shortage of food in the affected area. As a result, supply of food falls in relation to demand, resulting in price rise. In such situations majority of people cannot afford food and they begin to starve and die.

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1. NFW is open to which category of people ? **(2016)**

- Ans.** To all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual unskilled work.
2. What is the accepted calories requirement of India ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas.
3. What kind of funds are created by central government for NREGA ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** National Employment Guarantee funds.
4. The ADS has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up **(2016)**
- Ans.** Grain banks in different regions.
5. In which state, the average consumption of PDS grain is less than 300 gm per person per month ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** Bihar.
6. In which year, did the most devastating famine of Bengal occur ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** 1943.
7. When was a special stamp entitled "Wheat Revolution " released ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** July 1968.
8. Which state achieved the highest rate of growth in agriculture due to Green Revolution in India ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** Punjab.
9. Who were affected the most by the famine of Bengal ? Why ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** The agricultural labourers, fishermen, transport workers and other casual labourers.
10. In which area is seasonal hunger prevalent ? Why ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** In rural areas because of the seasonal nature of agricultural activities.
11. When was 'National Food for Work Programme' launched ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** November 14, 2004.
12. How many people in the province of Bengal were killed in the Famine of Bengal in 1943 ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** Thirty lakh.
13. Who are issued a yellow card ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** People below the poverty line are issued the yellow card.

14. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops by Food Corporation of India. What is this price called ? **(2016,2015)**
- Ans.** Minimum support price.
15. What is the full form of RPDS ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** Revamped Public Distribution System.
16. At which Subsidized price wheat is given to the people below the poverty line according to AAY scheme ? **(2016,2012)**
- Ans.** Rs 2/kg.
17. Which has brought about the white revolution in the country ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** Milk.
18. Which special stamp was released by the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1968 ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** Wheat Revolution.
19. Green Revolution is related to : **(2016,2012)**
- Ans.** Wheat and Rice production.
20. When was the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) passed ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** 2005.
21. What is "Chronic Hunger"? **(2016,2013)**
- Ans.** A consequence of diets persistently inadequate.
22. Why do the poor people suffer from chronic hunger?
- Ans.** Due to very low income.
23. In how many blocks in India was Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) introduced in 1992 ? **(2016,2014)**
- Ans.** 1,700.
24. Antyodaya ration cards are meant for which groups ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** The poorest among the BPL families.
26. How many Lakhs of Ration shops are there all over the country ? **(2016)**
- Ans.** 4.6.

26. Name the three states accounts for the largest number of food insecure people in the country ?
(2015,2012)
- Ans.** Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa.
27. In which year was 'Annapurna Scheme' (APS) launched ?
(2015)
- Ans.** 2000.
28. When was rationing in India was introduced ?
(2015,2013)
- Ans.** 1940s.
29. Write one severe criticism of Public Distribution system ?
(2015)
- Ans.** Godowns are overflowing with grains with some rotting away and some being eaten by rats.
30. Who purchases wheat and rice for the Buffer Stock ?
(2015)
- Ans.** Food Corporation of India.
31. What is the most appropriate meaning of food security ?
- Ans.** Availability of food to all sections of the people.
32. By whom is the Minimum Support Price declared every year ?
(2015)
- Ans.** Food Corporation of India.

PRACTICE CORNER

1. "In poor families all suffer, but some suffer more than others". Explain the statement.
2. Explain the two components of the Food Security System designed by the government of India. (2016)
3. Why is buffer stock created by the government ? Give any three reasons ? (2016)
4. Explain the role played by "co-operatives" in food security in India. (2016)
5. What is food security ? Explain any two measures adopted by the Government to ensure food security in India ? (2016)
6. Write the name of groups who are worst affected in respect of food and nutrition's in India. (2016)
7. Explain the role of Public Distribution System in India. (2016)

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