**Overview**

Food security means the availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times. Food security depends on the Public Distribution System (PDS) and government vigilance and action at times when this security is threatened.

**What Is Food Security?**

Food security has the following dimensions

(a) Availability of food means food production within the country, food imports and the previous years’ stock stored in government granaries.

(b) Accessibility means food is within reach of every person.

(c) Affordability implies that an individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one’s dietary needs.

Food security is ensured in a country only if

(1) Enough food is available for all the persons

(2) All persons have the capacity to buy food of acceptable quality

(3) There is no barrier to access to food.

**Why Food Security?**

During natural calamities, such as drought, the production of food grains decreases, creating a shortage of food in the affected areas. The prices increase due to a shortage of food. People cannot afford to buy food, and if such a calamity happens in a very wide spread area or is stretched over a longer time period, it might cause a situation of starvation. Massive starvation might take turn into a famine. A Famine is characterised by widespread deaths due to starvation and epidemics caused by the forced use of contaminated water or decaying food and loss of body resistance due to weakening from starvation.

**Effect of Natural Calamity on Food Security**

Most of the time, the poorest section of society might be food insecure. But persons above the poverty line might also be food insecure when the country faces a national disaster/calamity like earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami, widespread failure of crops causing famine, etc.-

The total production of foodgrains decreases due to a natural calamity. It creates a shortage of food in the affected areas. The price of the food products goes up due to this shortage. At high prices, some people cannot afford to buy food. If such calamity happens in a very wide area or is stretched over a longer time period, it may cause a situation of starvation. Massive starvation might take a turn of famine. Thus, natural calamity affects food security adversely.

**Famine and Starvation**

A famine is characterised by widespread deaths due to starvation and epidemics caused by forced use of impure water or decaying food and loss of body resistance due to weakening from starvation.

The most devastating famine in India was the famine of Bengal in 1943. Thirty lakh people died in it. The price of rice, the staple diet of the people in the region, increased sharply

**People Affected by Famine**

No famine has occurred in India since independence. But today also, there are places like Kalahandi and Kashipur in Odisha where famine-like condition still prevails. Starvation deaths are also reported in Baran district of Rajasthan, Palamau in Jharkhand and man^ other remote areas.

**Who Are Food-Insecure?**

In India, a large section of people suffers from food and nutrition insecurity. People having little or no land, traditional artisans, providers of traditional services, petty self-employed workers, and the destitute, including beggars, are the worst affected groups. In the urban areas, food-insecure families are those who are generally employed in ill-paid occupations and the casual labour market. These workers are largely engaged in seasonal activities and are paid very low wages.

The social composition, along with the inability to buy food, also plays a role in food insecurity. People of SC, ST and OBC communities who have either poor land-base or very low land productivity are prone to food insecurity. People affected by natural disasters, who migrate to other areas in search of work, are 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.

Another aspect of food insecurity is hunger, which is not just an expression of poverty; it brings about poverty. Hunger has chronic and seasonal dimensions. Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and/or quality. Seasonal hunger is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting.

Since Independence, India has been aiming at self-sufficiency in food grains. After Independence, Indian policymakers adopted all measures to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains. In the field of agriculture, India adopted a new strategy, which resulted in the ‘Green Revolution’.

National Health and Family Survey (NHFS) 1998-95 A large-scale, multi-round survey conducted in a representative sample of households throughout India. Three rounds of the survey have been conducted since the first survey in 1992-93 and this was the second. The survey provided .essential data on health and family welfare needed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy and programme purposes as well as information on important emerging health and family welfare issues.

**There are two types of hunger. These are as follows**

**(i) Chronic Hunger**

It is a consequence of a diet regularly deficient in quantity and quality this is caused due to lack of income to buy food for survival. Chronic hunger has reduced in rural areas from 2.3% of households in 1983 to 0.7% in 1999 – 2000. In urban areas, it has reduced from 0.8% to 0.3% during the same period.

**(ii) Seasonal Hunger**

It is related to seasonal cycles of food growing and harvesting. It affects landless\* agricultural labourers in rural areas the most. In urban areas, casual construction workers suffer from this during the time when they do not get work. The proportion of households experiencing seasonal hunger in rural areas has reduced significantly from 16.2% in 1983 to 2.6% in 1999-2000. In urban areas, it has reduced from 5.6% to only 0.6% during the reference period.

Note Malnutrition is a condition that results from eating a diet in which certain nutrients are lacking or in wrong proportions.

Measures for Self-Sufficiency in Foodgrains.

India is aiming at self-sufficiency in foodgrains since independence. India has adopted all measures to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains. The’ Green Revolution during the late 1960s and early 1970s helped significantly to achieve this, although the success varied from region to region.

During this period, High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of wheat and rice were introduced in many states. The highest rate of growth was achieved in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, where foodgrain production jumped from 7.23 million tonnes in 1964-65 to reach an all-time high of 78.9 million tonnes in 2012-13.

Production of foodgrains in Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Assam, Tamil Nadu has dropped. West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, on the other hand, recorded significant increases in rice yield in 2012-13. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, officially recorded the impressive progress of the Green Revolution in agriculture by releasing a special stamp entitled ‘Wheat Revolution’ in Julyl968.

Food Corporation of India (FCI) This was set-up under the Food Corporation’s Act 1964, in order to support operations for safeguarding the farmers, distribution of foodgrains throughout the country Tor PDS and maintaining satisfactory level of operational and buffer stocks.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) This is the price at which the government (through the Food Corporation of India) purchases crops from the farmers. Presently, there are 27 crops being purchased with such prices including varieties of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fibre crops and others.

**Food Security in India**

Since the Green Revolution, the country has avoided famine even during adverse weather conditions. India has become self-sufficient in food grains during the last 30 years because of a variety of crops grown all over the country. The availability of food grains has been ensured with a carefully designed food security system by the government. This system has two components: (a) buffer stock and (b) public distribution system.

**What Is Buffer Stock?**

Buffer stock is the stock of food grains, namely wheat and rice, procured by the government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The stock of wheat and rice are purchased by the FCI from the farmers where there is surplus production. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops, called Minimum Support Price (MSP). Every year, the MSP is declared by the government before the sowing season to provide incentives to farmers for raising the production of these crops. Buffer Stock is created to distribute food grains in the deficit areas and among the poorer section of society at a price lower than the market price, also known as Issue Price.

**What Is the Public Distribution System?**

FCI distributes the food procured from the farmer through government-regulated ration shops. It is called the Public Distribution System (PDS). Ration shops, also known as Fair Price Shops, keep stock of foodgrains, sugar, and kerosene for cooking. Rationing in India was introduced during the 1940s against the backdrop of the Bengal famine. In the mid-1970s, three important food intervention programmes were introduced:

1. Public Distribution System (PDS) for food grains
2. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
3. Food-for-Work (FFW)

At present, there are several Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs), mostly in rural areas, which have an explicit food component also. Employment programmes greatly contribute to food security by increasing the income of the poor.

**Rationing**  
It is a term given to government controlled distribution of resources and scarce goods or services. It restricts how much people are allowed to buy or consume at a particular time within a particular period. Rationing in India was introduced in 1940s against the backdrop of the Bengal famine. Later, it was revived in the wake of an acute food shortage during 1960s prior to the Green Revolution.

**Current Status of Public Distribution System**

In the beginning, the PDS coverage was universal with no discrimination between the poor and non-poor. In 1992, a Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was started in 1,700 blocks of the country to provide the benefits of PDS in remote and backward areas. In 1997, a Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced to target the ‘poor in all areas’, with a lower issue price for foodgrains for them compared to the price paid by non-poor people. Further in year 2000, two special schemes Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapura Scheme (APS) were launched.

(i) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for the ‘poorest of poor’. AAY was launched in December 2000. Under the scheme, 1 crore of the poorest among the BPL families covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) were identified.  
Poor families were identified by the respective state rural development departments through a Below Poverty, Line (BPL) survey. 25 kg of foodgrains were made available to each eligible family at a highly subsidised+ rate of Rs. 2 per kg for wheat and ? 3 per kg for rice. This quantity was increased from 25 kg to 35 kg from April 2002.

(ii) Annapurna Scheme (APS) for the ‘indigent senior citizen’. It provides 10 kg of foodgrains free of cost per month to senior citizens who are not receiving any pension or have any other source of income or having a family to support them, i.e. they are destitute.

Following are some remarkable achievements of PDS

* PDS has helped government to stabilise foodgrain prices, so that it is available to consumers at affordable rates.
* It has helped in avoiding widespread hunger and famine by supplying food from surplus regions to deficit ones.
* It also helped in increasing foodgrain production, besides providing income security to farmers in some areas.

**Criticisms of PDS**

The implementation of the PDS still needs to be improved, because of the following reasons

* Buffer stocks are much higher than the rules.
* In some FCI godowns, grains are getting damaged or eaten by rats and still instances of hunger are prevalent.
* High level of buffer stock of 65.3 million tonnes of wheat and rice in 2014 was much more than the minimum level of buffer norms. The excess stock of foodgrains bought from farmers at high , prices leads to high carrying costs for the government, besides leading to deterioration and wastage.
* The pressure exerted by leading foodgrain producing states to increase the buying cost has increased MSP. The rising’ MSP has increased the maintenance cost of procured foodgrains, storage cost and transportation cost.
* The buying of foodgrains is concentrated in a few prosperous states like Punjab, Haryana Western Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and to a lesser extent in West Bengal.
* The high MSPs have made farmers to cultivate wheat and rice more resulting in depletion of the water table, as they require more water to grow. This has also led to soil degradation, endangering future sustainability of agricultural development in the regions where these are grown.

**Malpractices in PDS**

PDS has also become ineffective in many regions of the country because dealers running the ration shops are indulged in malpractices

The malpractices indulged into by the dealers include

* Diverting the grains to open market to get a better margin.
* Selling poor quality grains at ration shops.
* Irregular opening of the shops and so on.

The malpractices have resulted in consumers of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha buying much less foodgrains than the national average from the ration shops. In the Southern states, where the shops are run by cooperatives, the consumers purchase much more than the national average.

Since the introduction of Targeted Distribution System (TPDS), with three levels of prices for three different income level families, the Above Poverty Line (APL) families do not have much incentive to buy foodgrains from the ration shops. The prices for these families are not significantly lower than market prices.

**Subsidy**  
It is a payment that a government makes to a producer to supplement the market price of a commodity. Subsidy helps in keeping consumer prices low while maintaining a higher income for domestic producers.

**Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**

In 1975, it was introduced on an experimental basis. Its aim is to provide children upto 6 years of age supplementary nutrition, immunisation, health, check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education as well as nutrition and health education for their mothers.

**Food-For-Work (FFW) Programme**

The main objective of the Food for Work Programme is generation of supplementary wage employment. It is open to all rural people who are in need of unskilled work wage employment.

**National Food For Work Programme**

National Food for Work Programme was launched on 14th November, 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country with the objective of intensifying the generation of supplementary wage employment. The programme is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual unskilled work. It is implemented as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme and the foodgrains are provided to the states free of cost. The Collector is the nodal officer at the district level and has the overall responsibility of planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and supervision. The programme from 2005 has since been subsumed in NREGA.

**Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs)**

Over the last few years, several other Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs), were launched mostly in rural areas. Some of – them have also been restructured.

Some of these programmes have explicit food components. Others are employment programmes, which improve food security by increasing the income of the poor. For example, Rural Wage Employment Programme, Employment Guarantee Scheme, Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana and Mid-day-Meal.

**Role Of Cooperatives In Food Security**

The role played by cooperatives in food security of India is important especially in the Southern and Western parts of the country. The cooperative societies set-up shops to sell low priced goods to poor people. For example, out of all fair price shops running in Tamil Nadu, around 94% are being run by the cooperatives.  
The examples shown below are success stories of cooperatives in order to contribute in food security of India

In Delhi, Mother Dairy is making progress in the provision of milk and vegetables to the consumers at a controlled rate decided by the Government of Delhi.

Amul is another success story of cooperatives in milk and milk products from Gujarat. It has brought about the White Revolution in the country.

In Maharashtra, Academy of Development Science (ADS) has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different regions. ADS organises training and capacity building programmes on food security for NGOs. The ADS Grain Bank programme is acknowledged as a successful and innovative food security intervention.

**Food Security**

Food security means accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times. Food security has the following dimensions:

(i) Availability of Food means food production within the country, imports and previous year’s stock stored in government granaries.

(ii) Accessibility means food is within reach of every person.

(iii) Affordability implies that an individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one’s dietary needs.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 of acceptable quality.

(c) there is no barrier on access to food.

**Need of Food Security**

(i) The poorest sections of the society might be food insecure most of the times.

(ii) Persons above the poverty line might also be food insecure when the country faces a national disaster/calamity like earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami or widespread failureof crops causing famine.

(iii) Because the above two reasons there is need for food security.

**Food Security Affected During a Calamity**

(i) Due to a natural calamity e.g., drought, total production of food grains decreases. It creates a shortage of food and the prices go up.

(ii) At the high prices some people cannot afford to buy food.

(iii) If such a calamity happens in a very wide area or is stretched over a long period of time it may cause a situation of starvation.Famine

(i) A massive starvation might turn into a famine.

(ii) A famine is characterised by widespread 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.

(iii) The most devastating famine that occurred in India was the FAMINE Of BANGAL in 1943. The famine killed 30 lakh people in the province of Bengal in British India.

(iv) Even today there are places like Kalahandi and Kashipur in Orissa where famine like conditions have been existing for many years and where some starvation deaths have also taken place.

(v) Therefore, food security is needed in a country to ensure food at all times.

**Food Insecure**

(i) The worst affected groups are landless people with little or no land to depend on.

(ii) Traditional artisans, providers of traditional services, petty self employed workers and destitutes including beggars are also such groups.

(iii) In the urban areas the food insecure families are those whose working members are generally employed in ill paid occupations and casual labour markets. They are largely engaged in seasonal activities and are paid very low wages that ensure bare survival.

(iv) The SCs and STs and some sections of OBCS, who have either poor land base or very low productivity are prone to food insecurity.

(v) People affected by natural disasters, who have to migrate to other areas in search of work are also among the most food insecure people.

(vi) A large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under the age of 5 years constitute an important segment of food insecure population.

(vii) The states of Uttar Pradesh (Eastern and Southern parts) Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account for the largest number of food insecure people in the country.

**Hunger**

(i) Hunger is another aspect indicating food insecurity.

(ii) Hunger is not just an expression of poverty it brings about poverty.

(iii) The attainment of food security therefore involves eliminating current hunger and reducing the risks of future hunger.

(iv) Hunger has chronic and seasonal dimensional.

(v) Chronic Hunger :Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and quality.(vi) Poor people suffer from chronic hunger because of their very low income and in turn their inability to buy food even for survival.

(vii) Seasonal Hunger : Seasonal hunger is related to cycle of food growing and harvesting.

(viii) This is prevalent in rural areas because of seasonal nature of agricultural activities and in urban areas because of casual labour e.g., there is less work for casual construction labour during the rainy season.

**India is Aiming at Self Sufficiency in Food grains Since Independence**

(i) After independence Indian policy makers adopted all measures to achieve self sufficiency in food grains.

(ii) India adopted a new strategy in agriculture which resulted in the Green Revolution especially in the production of wheat and rice.

(iii) The highest rate of growth was achieved in Punjab and Haryana, where food grains production jumped from 7.23 million tonnes in 1964-65 to reach an all time high of 30.33 million tonnes in 1995-96.

(iv) Production in Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa and north- eastern states continued to stagger.

(v) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh on the other hand, recorded significant increase in rice yield.

**Food Security in India**

(i) India has become self sufficient in food grains during the last 30 years because of the variety of crops grown all over the country.

(ii) The availability of food grains (even in adverse weather conditions or otherwise) at the country level has further been ensured with a carefully designed food security system by the government.

(ii) This system has two components(a) Buffer stock(b) Public distribution system

**Buffer Stock**

(i) Buffer stock is the stock of food grains namely wheat and rice procured by the government through Food Corporation of India (FCI) to be used during shortage of food grains.

(ii) The FCI purchases wheat and rice from farmers where there is surplus production.

(iii) The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops. This price is called Minimum Support Price (MSP).

(iv) The MSP is declared by the government every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to the farmers for raising the production of these crops.

(v) The purchased food grains are stored in granaries.

(vi) This is done 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 the issue price.

(vii) This also helps to resolve the problem of shortage of food grains during adverse weather conditions or during the periods of calamity.

**Public Distribution System**

(i) The food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer sections of society. This is called the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(ii) Ration shops are now present in most localities, villages, towns and cities.

(iii) Ration shops are also known as fair price shops which keep stocks of food grains, sugar, kerosene, oil etc. These items are sold to people at a price lower than market price.

(iv) Three important food intervention programmes were introduced

(a) Public Distribution System (PDS) for food grains in existence but strengthened thereafter.

(b) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDSS) introduced in 1975 on an experimental basis.

(c) Food For Work (FFW) Introduced in 1977-78.

**PAPS**

Several Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPS) are in existence mostly in rural areas, which have an explicit food component also.

(i) Programmes such as PDS and mid-day meal etc are exclusively food security programmes. Most of the PAPS also enhance food security.

(ii) Employment programmes greatly contribute to food security by increasing the income of the poor.Current status of Public Distribution System

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

(ii) In the beginning the coverage of PDS was universal with no discrimination between poor and non poor.

(iii) In 1992, Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was introduced in 1700 blocks in the country 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.

(v) It was for the first time that a different price policy was adopted for poor and non poor.

**In 2000 Two Special Schemes were Launched**

(a) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

(b) Annapurna Scheme (APS)

(c) These two schemes target the ‘poorest of the poor’ and ‘indigent senior citizens’, respectively.

**Merits of Public Distribution System**

(i) The PDS has proved to be the most effective instrument over the years in stabilising prices and making food available to consumers at affordable prices.

(ii) It has been instrumental in avoiding widespread hunger and famine by supplying food from surplus regions of the country to the deficit ones.

(iii) The system, along with the minimum support price and procurement has contributed to an increase in food production and provided income security for farmers in certain regions.

**Demerits of PDS**

(i) Instances of hunger are prevalent despite overflowing granaries. FCI godowns are. overflowing with grains, with some grains rotting away and some being eaten by rats.

(ii) The storage of massive stocks has been responsible for high carrying costs, in addition to wastage and deterioration in grain quality.

(iii) Intensive utilisation of water has also led to environmental degradation and fall in water level, threatening the sustainability of the agricultural development in these states.

(iv) PDS dealers are sometimes found resorting to malpractices like diverting the grains to open market for more profit.

(v) Dealers sell poor quality grains at ration shops.

(vi) They open the ration shops at irregular times.

(vii) The price for APL (Above Poverty Line) family is almost as high as open market price.

**Role of Co-operatives in Food Security**

(i) The co-operatives are also playing an important role in food security in India especially in southern and western parts of India.

(ii) The co-operative societies set up shops to sell low priced goods to the poor.

(iii) In Tamil Nadu, out of all fair price shops around 95% are being run by co-operatives.

(iv) In Delhi, Mother Dairy is making strides in provisions of milk and vegetables to the consumers at controlled rates decided by the Delhi Government.

(v) Amul is another success story of co-operatives in milk and milk products in Gujarat.

(vi) Amul has brought about the White Revolution’ in the country.

(vii) Grain banks are slowly taking shape in Maharashtra. The ADS (Academy of Development Science) Grain Bank Programme is acknowledged as a successful and innovative food security intervention.

**Very Short Answer Type Questions**

**Question 1** Which government organisation buys foodgrains from the farmers and supplies to the fair price shops?

**Answer:** Food Corporation of India (FCI)

**Question 2** The system under which the food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated shops among the poorest strata of the society is

**Answer:** Public Distribution System (PDS)

**Question 3** The price at which the government purchase the foodgrains (wheat and rice) through FCI from the farmers in states where there is surplus production is

**Answer:** Minimum Support Price

**Question 4** The stock of foodgrains, namely wheat and rice, procured by the government through the food corporation of India is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Answer:** Buffer Stock

**Question 5** The price at which foodgrains are distributed in the deficit areas and among the poor strata of the society.

**Answer:** Issue Price

**Question 6** Public Distribution System is associated with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Answer:** Fair Price Shop

**Question 7** A special stamp was released by Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, in July 1968 It was entitled as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Answer:** Wheat Revolution

**Question 8** Why are foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India?

**Answer:** The foodgrains are procured by the Food Corporation of India to provide minimum support price to the farmers.

**Question 9** List down the dimensions of food security.

**Answer:** Following are the dimensions of food security : Availability of food, Accessibility of food, Affordability of food.

**Question 10** What does MSP refer to?

**Answer:** Minimum Support Price

**Question 11** Which was the most devastating famine faced by India?

**Answer:** The Famine of Bengal 1943

**Question 12** Name two states where largest number of food insecure people live.

**Answer:** Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Maharashtra, (any two)   
**Question 13** When is Minimum Support Price declared by the government?

**Answer:** Every year before the sowing reason.

**Question 14** What is the objective of AD§?

**Answer:** ADS stands for Academy of Development Science which facilitates a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different regions.

**Question 14** What is the full Form of ICDS?

**Answer:** Integrated Child Development Services.

**Question 16** How is food security affected during a calamity?

**Answer:** Due to a calamity, the total production of foodgrains decreases.

**Question 17** Antyodaya card is meant for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Answer:** The people who are living below the poverty line.

**Question 18** What do you mean by a famine?

**Answer:** Famine is characterised by widespread 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.

**Question 19** Name two places in Odisha where famine-like conditions have been existing for many years.

**Answer:** Kalahandi and Kashipur.

**Question 20** To whom the yellow card is issued?

**Answer:** People below the poverty line.

**Question 21** Name two co-operative societies working in different parts of the country.

**Answer:** Mother Dairy Delhi and Amul in Gujarat.

**Question 22** Which revolution was adopted in July 1968?

**Answer:** Green Revolution.

**Question 23** What do you understand by ‘seasonal hunger’?

**Answer:** Seasonal hunger is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting. This is prevalent in rural areas because of the seasonal nature of agricultural activities and in urban areas because of casual labourers.

**Question 24** Describe the National Food Security Act, 2013

**Answer:** The National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for food and nutritional security life at affordable prices and enables people to live a life with dignity. Under this Act, 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population have been categorised as eligible households for food security.

**Question 25** Who can buy the foodgrains and other commodities from these ration shops?

**Answer:** Any family which is below the poverty line gets a ration card. A ration card can buy them a stipulated amount of certain essential commodities like foodgrains or kerosene, every month from a nearby ration shop.

**Question 26** When was rationing system introduced in India?

**Answer:** The rationing system was introduced in India in 1940s after the occurrence of disastrous Bengal famine.

**Question 27** Name food intervention programmes introduced by the Indian government after the NSSO report.

**Answer:** Public Distribution System (PDS)—for food grains. Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS)—introduced in 1974 Food-for-Work (FFW)—introduced in 1977-78

**Question 28** How has Minimum Support Price (MSP) supported the farmers?

**Answer:** The Minimum Support price and procurement has contributed to an increase in foodgrain production and provided income security to farmers in certain regions.

**Question 29** Name some of the essential commodities kept by ration shops or Fair Price Shops.   
**Answer:** Ration shops or Fair Price Shop keeps stock of foodgrains, sugar, and kerosene oil for cooking.

**Question 30** How do employment programmes contribute to food security?

**Answer:** Employment programmes greatly contribute to food security by increasing the income of the poor. Food Security in India Class

**Short Answer Type Questions**

**Question 1** Why do we need food security?

**Answer:** Food security is needed because : The poorest section of the society might be food insecure most of the times. People above the poverty line might also be food insecure when the country faces a national disaster or calamity like earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami, etc. There can also be a widespread failure of crops causing famine, etc.

**Question 2** Describe the role of FCI.

**Answer:** The role of Food Corporation of India is as follows : The food corporation of India was set-up in 1965. It performs the following functions on behalf of the government: The food procured by the FCI fixed by the government. These prices are known as Procurement Prices or Minimum Support Prices. It maintain a price stability of foodgrains. It distributes the food grains at subsidised prices among the ration card-holders through government regulated ration shops (also known as Fair Price Shops). The subsidised prices are known as issue prices. The subsidised prices (issue prices) are also fixed by the government.

**Question 3** Why do we need self-sufficiency in foodgrains?

**Answer:** Due to the following reasons, there is a need for self-sufficiency in foodgrains : To feed rising population. To control prices of foodgrains. To reduce imports of foodgrains. To fight against natural disaster such as droughts, floods, cyclone, etc.

**Question 4** What are the essentials of food security system?

**Answer:** The essentials of food security System are as follows : Increasing domestic production of food to meet its growing demand. Food should be available in adequate quantity. Food should be able to meet nutritional requirements. Food should be available at reasonable prices. Buffer stock of food should be maintained.

**Question 5** What do you mean by food security?

**Answer:** Food security means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all the citizens of the country at all times. The poor households are more vulnerable to food insecurity whenever there is a problem of production or distribution of food crops. Government maintains food security through various agencies such as Public Distribution System (PDS) and vigilance and action at times, when this security is threatened.

**Question 6** What is the importance of rationing?

**Answer:** The importance of rationing is : We need rationing to reduce the wastage and for the maximum utilization of the articles. In India, the rationing concept was introduced in the 1940s after the Bengal famine. The rationing system was revived in the wake of an acute food shortage during the 1960s, prior to the Green Revolution. During the times of emergency or natural calamities, rationing helps to overcome the crisis.

**Question 7** What are the major objectives of Academy of Development Science in Maharashtra? Or Write a short note on ADS Grain Banks.

**Answer:** ADS has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grains banks in different regions. ADS organises training and capacity building programmes on food security for NGOs. Grain Banks are now slowly taking shape in different parts of Maharashtra. ADS efforts to set up Grain Banks, to facilitate replication through other NGOs and to influence the governments policy on food security are thus paying rich dividends. The ADS Grain Bank programme is acknowledged as a successful and innovative food security intervention.

**Question 8** What are the three dimensions of food security?

**Answer:** The three dimensions of food security are : Availability of food: Availability of food means food production within the country, food imports and previous years’ stock stored in the government granaries. Affordability of food: Affordability implies that an individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one’s dietary needs. Accessibility of food: Accessibility means food is within reach of every person.

**Question 9** What were the effects of Famine of Bengal in 1943?

**Answer:** The most devastating famine that occurred in India was the Famine of Bengal in 1943. This famine killed thirty lakh people in the province of Bengal. Nothing like the Bengal Famine has ever happened in India again. During the famine, the families left their villages. The agricultural labourers, fishermen, transport workers and the other casual labourers were affected the most by dramatically increasing price of rice. They were the ones who died in this famine.

**Question 10** Explain any two important food intervention introduced after the report given by the NSSO?   
**Answer:** The two important food intervention programmes which were introduced after the report given by the NSSO are : Public Distribution System (PDS) for food grains (in existence earlier but strengthened thereafter) is the major step taken by the Government of India towards ensuring food security. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was introduced in 1975 on an experimental basis.

**Question 11** How does PDS ensure food security in India? Explain.

**Answer:** PDS or Public Distribution System distribute the food grains by the help of ration shops among the poorer sections of the society. Ration shops, also known as Fair Price Shops, keep the stock of foodgrains, sugar and kerosene oil for cooking. 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 (e.g., 35 kg of grains, 5 litres of kerosene, 5 kgs of sugar, etc.) every month from the nearby ration shop. PDS keeps on revising the prices in favour of urban poors.

**Question 12** What is the Public Distribution System? What are the objectives of PDS?

**Answer:** The Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures food at pre-announced prices. The government distributes food grains to the poorer strata of the society through ration shops at subsidised prices fixed by the government. This is called the Public Distribution System. The objectives of the PDS are : To provide essential goods at subsidised prices to the consumers. To control prices of essential commodities.

**Question 13** What do you know about Poverty Alleviation Programmes?

**Answer:** Over the years, several new programmes have been launched and some have been restructured with the growing experience of administering the programmes. At present, there are several Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs), mostly in rural areas, which have an explicit food component also. While some of the programmes such as PDS, mid-day meals, etc. are exclusively food security programmes, most of the PAPs also enhance food security. Employment programmes greatly contribute to food security by increasing the income of the poor.

**Question 14** What do you mean by hunger? What are the different dimensions of hunger?   
**Answer:** Hunger is one of the aspects that indicate food insecurity. Hunger is not just an expression of poverty, it brings about poverty. The attainment of food security therefore involves eliminating current hunger and reducing the risks of future hunger. There are two dimensions of hunger chronic hunger and seasonal hunger. Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and/or quality. Seasonal hunger is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting.

**Question 15** What are the consequences of the excessive reserves of foodgrains in India?

**Answer:** The consequences of excessive reserves of foodgrains in India are as follows : There is wastage and deterioration in grain quality. Excess reserves have led to high carrying costs. It has led to the decline in the quantity of foodgrains available to the consumers in the market.

**Question 16** Which groups are the worst affected by food security in India?

**Answer:** The worst affected groups are landless people with little or no land to depend upon, traditional artisans, providers of traditional services, petty self-employed workers and destitutes 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. Food Security in India Class

**Long Answer Type Questions**

**Question 1** “India is aiming at Self-sufficiency in Foodgrains since Independence.” Elaborate.

**Answer:** After Independence, many measures were adopted to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains. India adopted a new strategy in agriculture, which resulted in ‘Green Revolution’, to increase the production of wheat and rice. The highest rate of growth was achieved in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, which was 44.01 and 30 21 million tonnes in 2015-16. The total foodgrain production was 252.22 million tonnes in 2015-16 Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh recorded a significant production in field of wheat which was 26.87 and 17.69 million tonnes in 2015-16, respectively. West Bengal and UB on the other hand, recorded significant production of rice which was 15.75 and 12.51 million tonnes in 2015-16 respectively. India has become self-sufficient in foodgrains during the last 30 years because of a variety of crops grown all over the country. The availability of foodgrains (even in adverse weather conditions or otherwise) at the country level has been ensured further with a carefully designed food security system by the government.

**Question 2** Discuss the role of Indian government in food security.

**Answer:** The role of Indian government in food security are : The Government of India gave the responsibility for procuring and stocking of foodgrains to FCI and for distribution the responsibility is given to the Public Distribution System (PDS). The government is committed to announce a minimum support price for wheat and paddy and of quantities that could not fetch even such minimum prices in the market. The resultant stocks were to be utilized for maintaining distribution through the PDS and a portion of these were used to create and maintain buffer stocks. In fact, if stocks happened to be inadequate for maintaining a certain level of distribution through PDS, the government had to resort to imports to honour its charge to PDS consumers. The FCI procures foodgrains from the farmers at the government announced Minimum Support Price (MSP). Farmers are provided subsidies on agriculture inputs such as fertilizers, power and water. The biggest achievement of the Indian food policy, and operational stock holding has been the avoidance of famine-like conditions. It was with the basic objective of curbing consumption and ensuring an equitable distribution of available food supplies, especially in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society. The Government of India has introduced the scheme of minimum assured price of foodgrains which are announced well before the commencement of the crop seasons, after taking into account the cost of production / inter-crop price parity, market prices and other relevant factors.