

CBSE CLASS 9 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Economics — Development Studies

CHAPTER 4: FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

COMPLETE REVISION + EXAM PREPARATION QUESTION BANK

Strictly Formatted & Aligned with the Latest NCERT Syllabus and CBSE
Evaluation Framework



HIGH-VALUE CONTENT INCLUDED INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- **All Question Typologies:** 1-Mark Very Short, 3-Mark Short, and 5-Mark Long-Answer questions along with targeted MCQs.
- **Dedicated Exam Portals:** Separate, categorized indices for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Previous Year Questions (PYQs).
- **Core Socio-Economic Concepts:** Thorough breakdowns of Availability, Accessibility, and Affordability.
- **National Safety Nets:** In-depth evaluation of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), Public Distribution System (PDS), Buffer Stock Policy, and the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

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SECTION 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q1. What are the three essential dimensions of Food Security as defined by the NCERT?

FAQ CORE FOCUS

Food security means something more than getting two square meals. It has the following three interlinked dimensions:

- **Availability of Food:** This means food production within the country, food imports, and the stock stored in government granaries in previous years. It ensures that enough aggregate supply exists within the nation's borders.
- **Accessibility of Food:** This means food is within reach of every person without any social or geographical discrimination or transport bottlenecks.
- **Affordability of Food:** This implies that an individual has sufficient money to buy a variety of nutritious food items to meet one's dietary requirements, indicating the absence of extreme income poverty.

Q2. How does the food security system function during a natural calamity or crop failure?

FAQ SAFETY NET FOCUS

During a natural calamity, such as a drought, total production of foodgrains decreases. This creates a severe shortage of food in the affected areas. Due to this shortage, prices go up. High prices make food unaffordable for low-income households. If such a calamity happens over a very wide area or stretches for a long time, it may cause a situation of starvation, which can turn into a famine. The government prevents this through emergency grain releases from its buffer stocks and by distributing subsidized food via fair price shops.

SECTION 2: PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS (PYQS)

Q3. Differentiate between Chronic Hunger and Seasonal Hunger as identified in CBSE PAST EXAM PATTERN India.

Hunger is not just an expression of poverty; it brings about poverty. It has two distinct dimensions:

FEATURE	CHRONIC HUNGER	SEASONAL HUNGER
Definition	A consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and/or quality over a long period.	A form of hunger linked to the seasonal cycles of food production, harvesting, and rural employment.
Primary Causes	Extreme income poverty, which prevents low-income individuals from buying basic food items.	The seasonal nature of agricultural work in rural areas, or casual construction labor in urban areas during rainy seasons.
Duration	Persistent throughout the entire year.	Limited to specific months or inter-harvest periods when work and food supplies are scarce.

Q4. What is 'Buffer Stock'? Why does the Government of India maintain it? CBSE PAST EXAM PATTERN

Buffer Stock is the stock of foodgrains, primarily wheat and rice, procured by the government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The government maintains this stock for two main reasons:

- To distribute foodgrains in food-deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at prices much lower than the market rate (known as the Issue Price).
- To resolve food shortages during periods of adverse weather conditions, crop failures, or unexpected natural calamities.

SECTION 3: VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q5. Which tragic historical event is considered the most devastating famine to strike India?

The Famine of Bengal in 1943, which led to the death of nearly thirty lakh people in the province of Bengal.

Q6. Which socio-economic group of workers was most severely affected by the 1943 Famine of Bengal?

Agricultural laborers, fishermen, transport workers, and casual laborers, whose livelihoods collapsed as rice prices rose rapidly.

Q7. What is the full form of FCI in the context of food administration?

Food Corporation of India.

Q8. Define 'Minimum Support Price' (MSP).

The pre-announced price at which the government, through the FCI, purchases wheat and rice from farmers to protect them against steep drops in market prices.

Q9. Define the term 'Issue Price'.

The subsidized price at which the government distributes grains from its buffer stocks to low-income groups through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Q10. What are 'Fair Price Shops' commonly known as in India?

Ration Shops.

Q11. Name the targeted ration card category meant for the 'poorest of the poor'.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards.

Q12. What specific legal protection was introduced by the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013?

It provided legal entitlement to subsidized foodgrains to up to 75 percent of the rural population and 50 percent of the urban population.

Q13. What is the main objective of the 'Subsidy' provided by the central government?

To lower consumer retail prices while ensuring that producers receive a stable income, with the government covering the cost difference.

Q14. Name one major region in India that faces high vulnerability to food insecurity.

The Kalahandi and Kashipur districts of Odisha (or the tribal tracts of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh).

SECTION 4: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (3 MARKS)

Q15. Identify and describe the groups that are most vulnerable to food insecurity in India.

Food insecurity affects a large segment of the population in India, with specific groups being particularly vulnerable:

- **In Rural Areas:** Landless traditional artisans, smallholder farmers, petty self-employed workers, and destitute or landless laborers who cultivate marginal plots of land.
- **In Urban Areas:** Casual laborers, construction workers, and workers employed in low-paid, seasonal occupations, such as rickshaw pullers or informal service providers.
- **Social Categories:** Members belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and sections of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) who have poor land bases or low productivity. Large families, pregnant women, and nursing mothers also face high nutritional risks.

Q16. Explain the operational mechanism through which the Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures and distributes foodgrains in the country.

The FCI manages a nationwide system to stabilize foodgrain distribution across states:

1. **Procurement at MSP:** The FCI purchases wheat and rice from farmers in states with surplus production. This procurement is carried out at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), which is announced by the government before the sowing season.
2. **Storage in Central Granaries:** The procured grains are transported and stored in large government warehouses and silos, which form the nation's buffer stock.
3. **Distribution via PDS:** The FCI releases these stored grains to state governments, which distribute them to low-income consumers through a network of fair price shops at subsidized issue prices.

SECTION 5: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

Q17. Critically analyze the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India, evaluating its achievements and major operational challenges.

The Public Distribution System (PDS) is a major government initiative designed to ensure food security across the country. Over the decades, it has shown clear achievements alongside significant operational challenges:

Major Achievements:

- **Preventing Widespread Starvation:** The PDS has been central to managing national food surpluses and steering food grains from surplus regions to deficit areas, preventing famines and acute hunger.
- **Price Stabilization:** By introducing subsidized grain supplies into the market, it has helped stabilize essential food prices, protecting low-income consumers from market volatility.
- **Supporting Smallholder Incomes:** The procurement system linked to the PDS has provided farmers with a guaranteed price (MSP) for their crops, encouraging production and stabilizing rural incomes.

Operational Challenges and Failures:

- **Overflowing Granaries and Grain Rotting:** FCI warehouses often hold stocks well above the minimum norms. This excess storage can lead to grains rotting or being damaged by pests, wasting valuable resources.
- **Market Malpractices:** PDS dealers sometimes engage in unfair practices, such as diverting high-quality government grains to the open market for profit or selling lower-quality grains at ration shops.
- **Irregular Shop Openings:** Many ration shops operate on irregular schedules, making it difficult for low-income families to access their allowances when needed.
- **Shift to Targeted PDS (TPDS) Exclusions:** The transition from a universal PDS to a Targeted PDS introduced distinct income categories (APL and BPL). This system can create exclusion errors, leaving out families who are near the threshold but still need support.

SECTION 6: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQS)

MCQ 1. In which year was the National Food Security Act (NFSA) enacted by the Parliament of India?

- A) 2005
- B) 2009
- C) 2013
- D) 2018

Answer: C) 2013

MCQ 2. The price pre-announced by the government before the sowing season to purchase crops from farmers is known as:

- A) Issue Price
- B) Minimum Support Price
- C) Market Retail Price
- D) Fair Value Price

Answer: B) Minimum Support Price

MCQ 3. Which cooperative society in Delhi provides milk and vegetables to consumers at controlled, subsidized rates authorized by the government?

- A) Amul
- B) Mother Dairy
- C) Kendriya Bhandar
- D) Grain Bank

Answer: B) Mother Dairy

MCQ 4. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in 1997 adopted which of the following policy frameworks?

- A) A universal system covering all citizens equally
- B) A targeted system distinguishing between Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) households
- C) A system focused entirely on urban areas
- D) A system run exclusively by private traders

Answer: B) A targeted system distinguishing between Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) households

 INSTANT REVISION SUMMARY BOX

- **Core Dimensions:** Food security relies on Availability, Accessibility, and Affordability.
- **FCI Mandate:** Procures grains at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and stores them to maintain national buffer stocks.
- **PDS Network:** Distributes subsidized grains to low-income groups through a network of fair price shops.
- **NFSA 2013:** Provides legal entitlement to subsidized food grains to a large portion of rural and urban communities.