

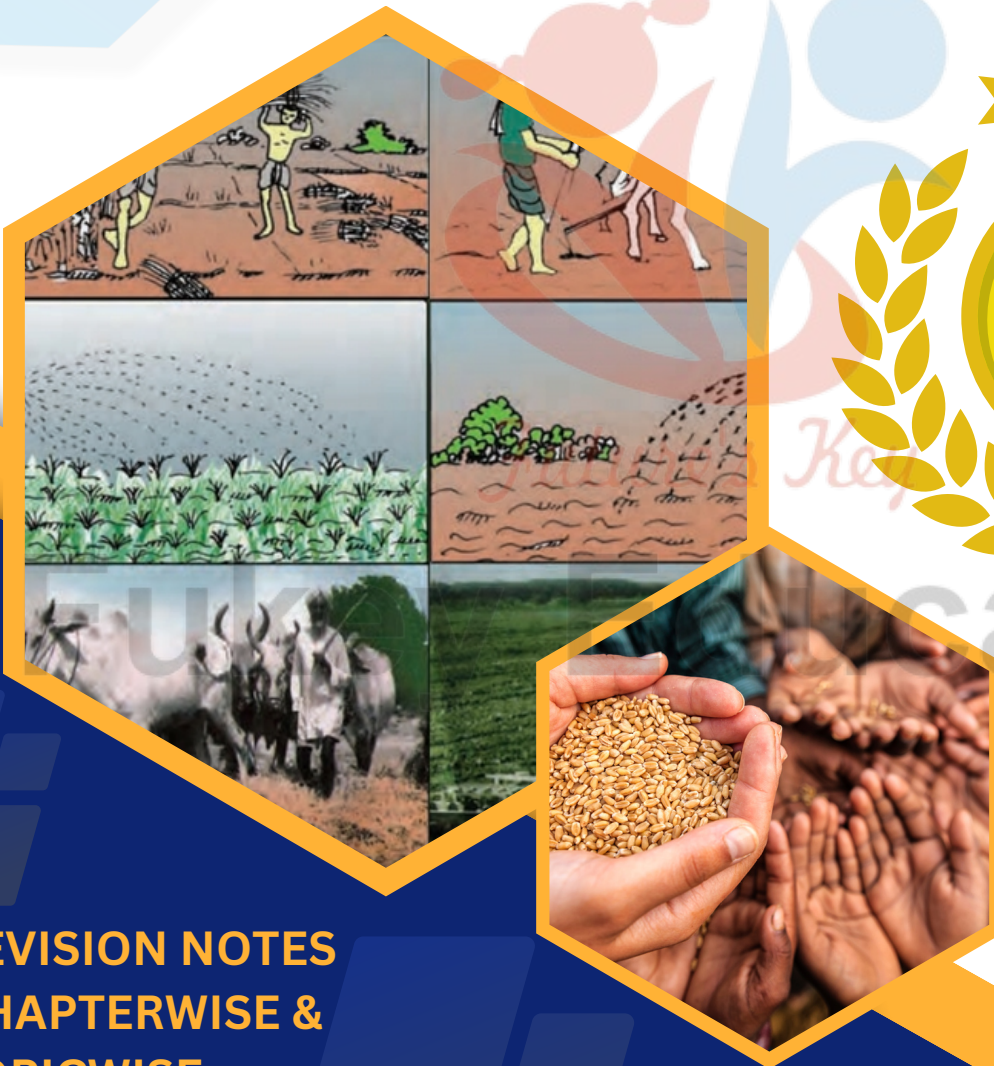


NOTES

SOCIAL SCIENCE

(ECONOMICS)

FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA



**REVISION NOTES
CHAPTERWISE &
TOPICWISE**

Chapter 4: Food Security in India

Concepts Covered:

1. **Food Security**
 - Meaning and dimensions
 2. **Who are Food-Insecure**
 - Distribution of food insecure people
 - Chronic and Seasonal hunger
 3. **Food Security in India**
 - Buffer Stock
 - Public distribution system
 - Current status of the Public Distribution System
 - National Food Security Act, 2013
 - Antyodaya Anna Yojana
 - Subsidy
 - Important features of PDS
 4. **Role of Cooperatives in Food Security**
 5. **Mind Map**
(Colourful & Interactive/ Complete All Concept Covered)
- Practice Questions (All Topics Available)**

Future's Key

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FOOD SECURITY

Meaning and dimensions

Food is among the basic essentials for a life to survive. Unfortunately, many people lack proper nutrition and even die of hunger, and it is there that the terms like 'Food Security' come. Food security is the state when all the people always have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food necessary to maintain a healthy and active life.

Food Security: Food security means availability, accessibility, and affordability of food to all people always.

Food Security has following three dimensions – availability, accessibility, and affordability.

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

Accessibility means food is within reach of every person.

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



WHO ARE FOOD-INSECURE

Distribution of food insecure people

India is home to a bifurcated population of rich and poor with a plethora of citizens falling under the below poverty line. As a result of which, a variety of states in the country are badly hit by the impact of food insecurity such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, etc.



Chronic and Seasonal hunger

Chronic hunger: - Chronic hunger is caused by diets that are consistently deficient in quantity and/or quality. Poor people suffer from chronic hunger as a result of their poor income and inability to purchase even the food necessary for survival.

Seasonal hunger: - Seasonal hunger is linked to food producing and harvesting seasons in rural areas, as well as seasonal employment of casual labourers in urban areas. 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.



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Buffer Stock

The stock of foodgrains, namely rice and wheat, procured by the Government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is known as the **Buffer Stock**. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has the main responsibility of procuring food grains at Minimum Support Price (MSP) stored in its warehouses and supplied to state governments in terms of requirements.



Public distribution system

Public Distribution System (PDS) has evolved as a system of management of scarcity through distribution of food grains at affordable prices.

Current status of the Public Distribution System

Initially the PDS coverage was universal.

In 1992, Revamped Public Distribution System [RPDS]

Targeting remote and backward areas. [1700 blocks]

From June 1997, Targeted Public Distribution System

Targeting the poor in all areas

Further in 2000 and 2002, two special schemes were launched “Antyodaya Anna Yojana” [AAY] and “Annapurna Anna Yojana” [APY] respectively.

Poorest of the poor Indigent Senior Citizen



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The two schemes were linked with the existing network of the PDS.

Name of scheme	Year of introduction	Coverage target group	Latest volume	Issue Price (Rs per kg.)
PDS	Up to 1992	Universal	-	W.2.34 R.2.89
RPDS	1992	Backward blocks	20 kg of foodgrains	W.2.80 R.3.77
TPDS	1997	Poor and non-poor BPL APL	35 kg of foodgrains	BPL-W-4.15 R.5.65 APL.W.6.10 R.8.30
AAY	2002	Poorest of the poor	35 kg of foodgrains	W.2.00 R.3.00
APS	2000	Indigent senior citizens	10 kg of foodgrains	Free
National Food Security ACT (NFSA)	2013	Priority households	5 kg per person per month	W.2.00 R.3.00 Coarse-1.00 grains

National Food Security Act, 2013

This Act 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.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

AAY was launched in December 2000. Under this scheme one crore of the poorest among the BPL families covered under the targeted public distribution system were identified. Poor families were identified by the respective state rural development departments through a Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey. Twenty-five kilograms of foodgrains were made available to each eligible family at a highly subsidised rate of 2 per kg for wheat and 3 per kg for rice. This quantity has been enhanced from 25 to 35 kg with effect from April 2002. The scheme has been further expanded twice by additional 50 lakh BPL families in June 2003 and in August 2004. With this increase, 2 crore families have been covered under the AAY.

Subsidy

A subsidy is money that is paid by a government or other authority in order to help an industry or business, or to pay for a public service.



Important features of PDS

- It is an effective instrument in stabilising prices and making food available to consumers at affordable prices.
- Helped in averting widespread hunger and famine by supplying food from surplus regions of the country to the deficit ones.
- Minimum support price and procurement has contributed to an increase in foodgrain production and provided income security to farmers in certain regions.

However, the Public Distribution System has faced severe criticism on several grounds.

Instances of hunger are prevalent despite overflowing granaries.

There is a general consensus that high level of buffer stocks of foodgrains is very undesirable and can be wasteful.

- **Example:** In 2014, the stock of wheat and rice with FCI was 65.3 million tonnes which was much more than the minimum buffer norms.
- The storage of massive food stocks has been responsible for high carrying costs, in addition to wastage and deterioration in grain quality.

The procurement of food grains at MSP is concentrated in a few prosperous regions (Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and to a lesser extent in West Bengal) and mainly of two crops - Wheat and Rice.



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ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN FOOD SECURITY

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

- Cooperatives are vital to India's food security, especially in the country's south and west.
- Cooperative groups opened stores to provide low-cost goods to the underprivileged.
- Cooperatives run around 94 per cent of fair price shops in Tamil Nadu.
- Mother Dairy in Delhi provides milk and vegetables to consumers at a price set by the Delhi government.
- Gujarat's Amul is credited with starting the country's White Revolution of milk and milk products.
- The Academy of Development Science (ADS) in Maharashtra has helped NGOs establish grain banks in various areas.



FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

MIND MAP

