

# ECONOMICS

## Chapter 4: Food Security in India



## Important Questions

### Multiple Choice questions-

Question 1. Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate:

- (a) in term of quality only
- (b) in term of quantity only
- (c) in term of quantity and quality
- (d) none of the above

Question 2. Seasonal hunger is a type of hunger when a person:

- (a) is unable to get food for the entire year
- (b) is able to get food for the entire year
- (c) is able to get work for the entire year
- (d) is unable to get work for the entire year

Question 3. Since independence, India is aiming at self-sufficiency in:

- (a) food security
- (b) food grains
- (c) work force
- (d) none of these

Question 4. The highest rate of growth in foodgrain was achieved in:

- (a) Punjab and Bihar
- (b) Haryana and Orissa
- (c) Punjab and Haryana
- (d) Punjab

Question 5. There are ..... lakh ration shops all over the country:

- (a) 4.4
- (b) 4.5
- (c) 4.6
- (d) 4.7

Question 6. Fair Price Shops keep stock of:

- (a) only food grains
- (b) food grains and sugar
- (c) food grain, sugar and kerosene oil

(d) none of the above

Question 7. Food security means:

- (a) availability of food to all people at all times.
- (b) availability and accessibility of food as all people at all times.
- (c) availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times.
- (d) none of the above.

Question 8. The famine of Bengal occurred is:

- (a) 1941
- (b) 1942
- (c) 1943
- (d) 1944

Question 9. Starvation deaths are also reported in Baran district of:

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Orissa
- (d) Rajasthan

Question 10. Food security is needed in a country:

- (a) to ensure food at all times
- (b) to ensure food to the rich
- (c) to ensure food at sometimes
- (d) none of the above

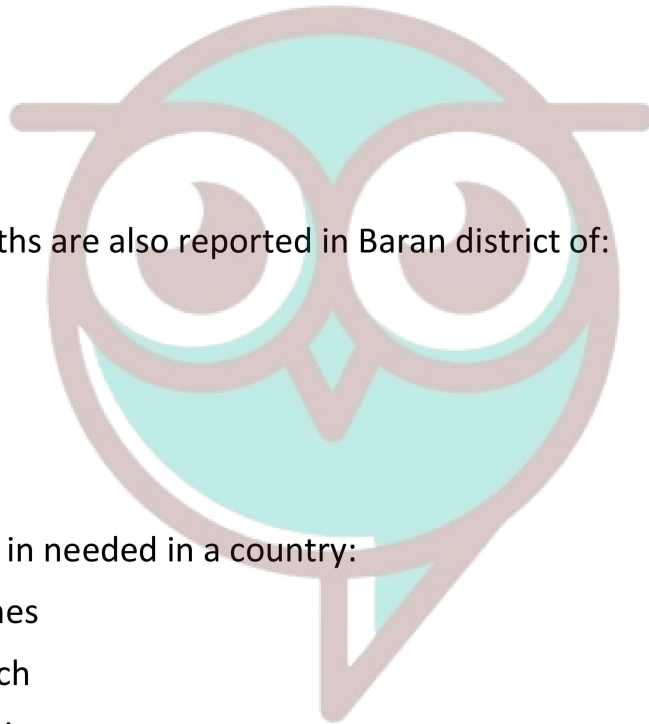
Question 11. The food insecure people are disproportionately large:

- (a) in all the states of India
- (b) in the states of Bihar and Orissa
- (c) in some region of the country
- (d) none of the above.

Question 12. Hunger is another aspect indicating:

- (a) food security
- (b) food insecurity
- (c) to meet their demands
- (d) none of the above

**Very Short Questions-**



Swotters

Question 1. What does 'Food Security' mean?

Question 2. On what factors does food security depend on?

Question 3. How does the situation of starvation arise?

Question 4. Which was the most devastating famine to have occurred in India?

Question 5. What kind of people in rural areas are food insecure?

Question 6. Which other parts of society are prone to food insecurity?

Question 7. How people affected by natural disasters are food insecure?

Question 8. Does hunger cause food insecurity?

Question 9. Which states achieved the highest rate of growth in food grain production during Green Revolution?

Question 10. Which states continued to lag behind in food production despite Green Revolution?

### Short Questions-

Question 1. Explain the three dimensions of food security.

Question 2. How is food security ensured in a country?

Question 3. What kind of people faces food insecurity?

Question 4. How is food security affected during a calamity?

Question 5. How do famines lead to widespread deaths?

Question 6. In which areas of India even today famine has caused starvation deaths?

Question 7. What type of people in urban areas are food insecure?

Question 8. Is it true that a high incidence of malnutrition prevails among women?

Question 9. In which regions are food insecure people disproportionately large in our country?

Question 10. Which states of India account for the largest number of food insecure people?

### Long Questions-

Question 1. What are the dimensions of 'food security'?

Question 2. Why do we need 'food security'?

Question 3. How is food security affected during a calamity?

Question 4. What is a 'famine'? Which states in India are affected by famines?

Question 5. Who are the most affected food insecure people in India?

Question 6. How are food insecure people disproportionately large in some regions of the country?

Question 7. Cite evidences which explain that India is self-sufficient in food grain production.

### MCQ Answers-

1. Answer: (c) in term of quantity and quality
2. Answer: (c) is able to get work for the entire year
3. Answer: (b) food grains
4. Answer: (c) Punjab and Haryana
5. Answer: (c) 4.6
6. Answer: (c) food grain, sugar and kerosene oil
7. Answer: (c) availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times.
8. Answer: (c) 1943
9. Answer: (d) Rajasthan
10. Answer: (a) to ensure food at all times
11. Answer: (c) in some region of the country
12. Answer: (b) food insecurity

### Very Short Answers-

1. **Answer:** Food security means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times.
2. **Answer:** Food security depends on the Public Distribution System (PDS) and government vigilance and action at times when this security is threatened.
3. **Answer:** If any calamity happens in a very widespread area or is stretched over a large time period may cause a situation of starvation. A massive starvation might take the form of famine.
4. **Answer:** The most devastating famine that had occurred in India was the famine of Bengal in 1943. This famine killed thirty lakh people in the province of Bengal.
5. **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 destitute including beggars.
6. **Answer:** The SCs, STs and some sections of OBCs who have either poor land base or very low land productivity are prone to food insecurity.
7. **Answer:** 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, since they are not settled in their life.
8. **Answer:** Hunger is another aspect indicating food insecurity, arising from poverty.
9. **Answer:** Punjab and Haryana achieved the highest rate of growth in the production of wheat.
10. **Answer:** Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and the northeastern states lagged behind in food production, despite Green Revolution.



## Short Answers-

1. **Answer:** Availability of food means food production within the country, accessibility means food within reach of every person and affordability is that an individual has enough money to buy sufficient safe food.
2. **Answer:** Food security is ensured in a country only if enough food is available for all persons, all persons have the capacity to buy food of acceptable quality and there is no barrier on access to food.
3. **Answer:** The poorest section of the society might be food insecure most of the times while person above the poverty line might also be food insecure when the country faces a national disaster/calamity like drought, flood, tsunami, widespread failure of crops causing famine, etc.
4. **Answer:** Due to a national calamity say, drought, total production of food grain decreases. It creates a shortage of food in the affected areas. Due to shortage of food the prices go up. At the high price many people cannot afford to buy food.
5. **Answer:** 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.
6. **Answer:** Even today there are places like Kalahandi district and Kashipur tehsil in Raigarh district of Odisha where some starvation deaths have been reported due to famine like conditions. Starvation deaths are also reported in Baran district of Rajasthan and Palamau district of Jharkhand.
7. **Answer:** In the urban areas, the food insecure families are those whose working members are generally employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labour market. These workers are largely engaged in seasonal activities and are paid very low wages that just ensure basic survival.
8. **Answer:** This is a matter of serious concern as it is true. It puts even the unborn baby at the risk of malnutrition. A large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under the age of 5 years constitute an important segment of food insecure population.
9. **Answer:** The food insecure people are disproportionately large in some regions of the country, such as economically backward states with high incidence of poverty, tribal and remote areas, regions more prone to natural disasters, etc.
10. **Answer:** The states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account for the largest number of food insecure people in the country.

## Long Answers-

1. **Answer: The dimensions of food security are:**
  - i. **Availability of food:** It is the food production within the country including food imports and previous year stock of food in government granaries.
  - ii. **Accessibility:** This means food within the reach of every person.
  - iii. **Affordability:** This means whether the individual has enough money to buy sufficient and

nutritious food.

**2. Answer: Food security is needed because:**

- i. The poorest section of the society might be food insecure most of the times.
- ii. People above the poverty line might also be food insecure when the country faces a national disaster or calamity like an earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami, etc.
- iii. There can also be a widespread failure of crops causing famines, etc.

**3. Answer:**

- i. Due to a natural calamity, total production of food grains decreases.
- ii. It creates a shortage of food in the affected area.
- iii. Due to shortage of food, the prices go up.
- iv. At higher prices, some people cannot afford to buy food.
- v. If such a calamity occurs in a widespread area, it may cause a situation of starvation.
- vi. A massive situation of starvation might turn into a famine.

**4. Answer:** 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:

- i. The most devastating famine that occurred in India was the Famine of Bengal in 1943. This famine killed 30 lakh people in the province of Bengal.
- ii. Even today, there are places like Kalahandi and Kashipur in Orissa, where famine-like conditions have been existing for many years and starvation deaths have also been reported.
- iii. Starvation deaths are also reported in Baran district of Rajasthan, Palamau district of Jharkhand and many other remote areas during the recent years.

**5. Answer: Worst affected people in rural areas are:**

- i. Landless people with little or no land to depend on.
- ii. The traditional artisans.
- iii. Providers of traditional services like Pandits performing religious ceremonies.
- iv. Petty, self-employed workers.
- v. Poor and the destitute including beggars.

**Worst affected people in urban areas are:**

- i. Those families are food insecure whose working members are generally employed in ill-paid occupations.
- ii. Casual labour in the market.
- iii. These workers are mostly engaged in seasonal activities and are paid very low wages that just ensure their bare survival.

6. **Answer:**

- i. There are some states which are economically backward states with high incidence of poverty.
- ii. These are the tribal and remote areas, and regions more prone to natural disasters, etc.
- iii. In fact, the states of UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account for the largest number of food insecure people in the country.

7. **Answer:** India has become self-sufficient in food grain production during the last thirty years.

- i. This is because of a variety of crops grown all over the country.
- ii. The availability of food grains even in adverse weather conditions or otherwise, has further been ensured with a carefully designed food security system by the government.
- iii. **This system has two components:**
  - (a) Buffer stocks and
  - (b) Public distribution system.

