

Food Security in India

Source Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

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. In fact, the states of Uttar Pradesh (Eastern and South-eastern parts), Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account for largest number of food insecure people in the country. Hunger is another aspect indicating 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. Hunger has chronic and seasonal dimensions. Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and/or quality. Poor people suffer from chronic hunger because of their very low income and in turn inability to buy food even for survival. 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, e.g., there is less work for casual construction labourers during the rainy season. This type of hunger exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year.

Q1. Which of the following states have largest number of food insecure people in the country?

- a. Bihar
- b. Jharkhand
- c. West Bengal
- d. All of these

Ans. (d)

Q2. How can food security be attained?

- a. By eliminating current hunger
- b. By reducing the risks of future hunger

- c. Both a, and b.
- d. By removing the incidence of poverty

Ans. (c)

Q3. Why do poor people suffer from chronic hunger?

- a. Inability to get work
- b. Due to very low income
- c. Inability to buy food even for survival
- d. Both b. and c.

Ans. (d)

Q4. Which type of hunger is prevalent in rural areas?

- a. Chronic hunger
- b. Seasonal hunger
- c. Physical hunger
- d. Emotional hunger

Ans. (b)

Q5. In which of the following areas seasonal hunger occurs because of casual labourers?

- a. Rural areas
- b. Urban areas
- c. Hilly areas
- d. Desert regions

Ans. (b)

Q6. Who are the people more prone to food insecurity in urban areas?

- a. Casual labourers
- b. Traditional artisans
- c. Petty self-employed workers
- d. Destitutes including beggars

Ans. (a)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Buffer Stock is the stock of foodgrains, namely wheat and rice, procured by the government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops. This price is called Minimum Support Price (MSP). The MSP is declared by the government every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to farmers for raising the production of these crops. The purchased foodgrains are stored in granaries. Do you know why this buffer stock is created by the government? This is done to distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of the society at a price lower than the market price also known as Issue Price. This also helps resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during the periods of calamity.

Q1. Why is buffer stock created?

- a. To distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas.
- b. To maintain equal distribution of food.
- c. To avoid shortage of food.
- d. All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q2. Through which of the following organisations buffer stock is procured by the government?

- a. Food Corporation of India
- b. Targeted Public Distribution System
- c. World Food Programme
- d. Food and Agriculture Organisation

Ans. (a)

Q3. Which of the following is declared by the government every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to the farmers for raising the production of crops?

- a. Fair Price
- b. Minimum Support Price
- c. Issue Price
- d. None of the above

Ans. (b)

Q4. From where does FCI purchase foodgrains?

- a. From the market.
- b. From the surplus production of the farmers in states.
- c. From the buffer stock at minimum support price.
- d. From the fair price shops.

Ans. (b)

Q5. Identify the way(s) in which buffer stock is used by the government to ensure food security in the country.

- a. It stores the purchased grains in godowns all over the country.
- b. The government procures foodgrains from the farmers after paying them a pre-announced price for their produce in minimum support price.
- c. The food is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poor sections of the society at price lower than the market price.
- d. All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): FCI helps to resolve the problem of shortage of food during the periods of calamity.

Reason (R): FCI performs effective price support operations for safeguarding the interests of the farmers.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. (b)