

## **Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)**

**Q. 1. Explain any three features of Indian agriculture.**

**Ans.** Two-thirds of India's population is engaged in agricultural activities.

Agriculture is a primary activity, which produces most of the food that is consumed.

It also produces raw material for various industries.

Some agricultural products like tea, coffee, spices, etc., are also exported to earn foreign exchange.

**Q. 2. Why is there enormous pressure on land in intensive subsistence farming?**

**Ans. (i)** Right of inheritance leading to the division of land among successive generations has rendered land holding size uneconomical.

**(ii)** The farmers continue to take maximum output from the limited land, in the absence of alternative sources of livelihood.

Thus, there is an enormous pressure on agricultural land.

**Q. 3. Which crop is known as a 'golden fibre'? Explain any two geographical conditions essential for the cultivations of this crop. Mention its four uses.**

**Ans.** Jute is known as 'golden fibre'. It grows well on well-drained fertile soils in the flood plains where soils are renewed every year. West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Meghalaya are the major jute producing states of India. It is used in making gunny bags, mats, ropes, yarn, carpets and other artefacts. Due to its high cost, it is losing market to synthetic fibres and packing material, particularly nylon.

**Q. 4. "Agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy." Explain this statement.**

**Ans.** Agriculture has been the backbone of the Indian economy.

Agricultural share in providing employment and livelihood to the population continues to be as high as 63 per cent (2001).

Government is providing facilities like irrigation, power, rural roads, market and mechanisation subsidy on fertilisers.

Reduction of import duties on agricultural products have proved detrimental to agriculture in the country.

**Q. 5. Explain four technological reform initiatives taken by the government to ensure the increase in agricultural production.**

**Ans.** Technological reforms:

**(i)** Green Revolution in agriculture and White Revolution in milk were introduced.

(ii) Tractors, harvesters, threshers and tube wells, etc., and technological devices were introduced.

(iii) For better production, fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides were also produced.

(iv) The government also announced the minimum support price, which checks the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen.

**Q. 6. Why do we need to have technical and institutional reforms in India?**

**Ans.** Agriculture has been practised in India for thousands of years.

Sustained uses of land without compatible techno-institutional changes have hindered the pace of agricultural development.

In spite of development of sources of irrigation, most of the farmers in large parts of the country still depend upon monsoon and natural fertility in order to carry on their agriculture.

For a growing population, this poses a serious challenge.

Agriculture which provides livelihood for more than 60 per cent of its population, needs some serious technical and institutional reforms.

**Q. 7. Suggest the initiatives taken by the government to ensure the increase in agricultural production.**

**Ans. (i)** The right of inheritance has led to fragmentation of landholdings. Therefore, collectivisation, consolidation of landholdings, cooperation and abolition of zamindari, etc. were given priority to bring about institutional reforms in the country after independence.

(ii) The Green Revolution based on the use of package technology and White Revolution were initiated to improve the Indian agriculture.

(iii) Land development programme was initiated, which included provision for crop insurance against famine, flood, cyclone, fire and disease, establishment of Grameen banks, cooperative societies, etc.

(iv) Kissan credit cards, Personal Accident Insurance scheme were introduced for the benefit of farmers.

(v) Special weather bulletins and agricultural programmes for farmers are run on the radio and television.

(vi) To check the exploitation of farmers by speculators and middlemen, the government announces minimum support price, remunerative and procurement prices for important crops.