



Vidya Bhawan balika Vidyapeeth shakti utthan aashram Lakhisarai

Revision Class-9th

(Based on N C E R T pattern)

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Economics

Food Security in India

Question 1.

What are the limitations of the public distribution system?

Answer:

- Failed to remove hunger: The PDS has been working for many years but still hunger is prevailing in the Indian society.
- Overflowing godowns: The FCI godowns are overflowing with foodgrains. In 2012 the stock of wheat and rice was 82.3 million tonnes which was much more than the minimum stock. There is a general consensus that high level of buffer stock of foodgrains is very undesirable and can be wasteful.
- Poor foodgrain quality: As most of godowns have more stock than their capacity, this leads to deterioration in grain quality.
- Adverse impact on the environment: Due to incentive by the government most of the states are producing only rice and wheat. The intensive utilization of water in the cultivation of rice has led to environmental degradation and fall in the water level, threatening the sustain- ability of the agricultural development in many states.

Question 2.

How is food security ensured in India?

Answer:

Food security in India has two components:

(a) Buffer stock

(b) Public distribution system.

(a) Buffer Stock: Buffer Stock is the stock of foodgrains, namely wheat and rice procured by the government through Food Corporation of India (FCI). The FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production.

The purchased foodgrains are stored in granaries. This is done to distribute foodgrains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price, also known as Issue Price. This helps in resolving the problem of shortage of food.

(b) Public distribution system: The stored food is distributed to the poor people through ration shops. The items are sold to the poor people at a price lower than the market price.

Other schemes: Over the years, several new programmes have been launched like mid-day meal, Antyodaya Ana Yojana, etc. for food security.

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