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Chapter 4 : Food Security in India

Q.1) Differentiate between seasonal hunger and chronic hunger.

Ans: Seasonal hunger is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting. This is common in rural areas because of the seasonal nature of agricultural activities, and in urban areas because of the casual labour. This type of hunger exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year.

Chronic hunger is a consequence of inadequacy in terms of quantity or quality. Poor people suffer from chronic hunger because of their low income and in turn, inability to buy food even for survival.

Q.2) Why is a buffer stock created by the government?

Ans: A buffer stock of food grains is created by the government so as to distribute the procured food grains in the food-deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price. A buffer stock helps resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during periods of calamity.

Q.3) Write notes on Minimum support price

Ans: Minimum Support Price is the predetermined price at which the government purchases food grains from the farmers in order to create a buffer stock. This price is declared by the government every year before the growing season. The aim of creating a MSP is to provide incentives to the farmers for raising the production of the crops.

Q.4) What happens to the supply of food when there is a disaster or a calamity?

Ans: When there is a disaster or a calamity, the production of food grains decreases in the affected area. This results in shortage of food in the area. Due to the food shortage, the prices rise. The raised prices of food materials affect the buying capacity of many people. When the calamity occurs in a very wide spread area or is stretched over a long period of time, it may cause a situation of starvation which can take the form of famine.