

NCERT Solutions for Class 9th Social Science ECONOMICS

FREEHOMEDELIVERY.NET: Chapter 1 The Story of Village Palampur

Question 1. Every village in India is surveyed once in ten years during the census and some of the details are presented in the following format. Fill up the following based on information on Palampur.

(a) LOCATION

(b) TOTAL AREA OF THE VILLAGE

(c) LAND USE(in hectares)

Cultivated Land		Land not available for cultivation
Irrigated	Unirrigated	(Area covering dwellings, roads, ponds, grazing ground)
		26 hectares

(d) **FACILITIES**

Educational	
Medical	
Market	
Electricity supply	
Communication	
Nearest town	

Answer

(a) **Location** Palampur is located 3 km from Raiganj which is a big village. The nearest town is Shahpur.

- It is well connected with neighbouring villages and towns.
- An all weather road connects the village to Raiganj and further to the nearest small town of Shahpur.

(b) **Total Area of the Village**

The total area of the Palampur village is 246 hectares.

(c) **land Use** (in hectares)

Cultivated Land		Land not available for cultivation
Irrigated	Unirrigated	(Area covering dwellings, roads, ponds, grazing ground)
		26 hectares

(d) **FACILITIES**

Educational	
Medical	
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Electricity supply	
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Question 2. Modern farming methods require more input which are manufactured in industry. Do you agree ?

Answer Yes, It is true that modern farming methods require more Inputs which are manufactured in industry. For example

- HYV seeds, insecticides, pesticides and chemical fertilisers needed for increasing the yield per hectare are all manufactured industries
- Farmers use farm machinery like tractors, threshers and also combined harvesters which are also manufactured in industries.
- Tubewell equipment and water pumps used for irrigation are also manufactured in industries.

Question 3. How did the spread of electricity help farmers in Palampur?

Answer

- Most of the houses in Palampur have electric connections.
- Electricity powers all the tubewells in the fields that help to irrigate much larger areas of land more effectively as compared to the traditional Persian wheel drawn by bullocks. Since the entire cultivated area of 200 hectares had come under irrigation farmers did not have to depend on rainfall and could grow multiple crops.
- It helps small businesses run their machinery like Mishrilal's sugarcane crushing machine.

Question 4. Is it important to increase the area under irrigation why?

Answer Yes, it is important to increase the area under irrigation because water is very essential for agriculture. In India, the rainfall is unevenly distributed in the country and if rainfall is less, then production will be low, and they will be only able to grow one crop in a season.

With good irrigation it will be possible to do multiple cropping, helping to increase the yield per hectare

Question 5. Construct a table on the distribution of land among the 450 families of Palampur.

Answer Distribution of land among the 450 families of Palampur.

Cultivated Land		Land not available for cultivation
Irrigated	Unirrigated	(Area covering dwellings, roads, ponds, grazing ground)
		26 hectares

(d) FACILITIES

Educational	
Medical	
Market	
Electricity supply	
Communication	
Nearest town	

Question 6. Why are the wages for farm labourers in Palampur less than minimum wages ?

Answer The minimum wages for a farm labourer set by the government are Rs. 60 per day, but wages of farm labourers in Palampur are less than minimum wages because there is heavy competition for work among the farm labourers in Palampur, so people agree to work for lower wages.

Question 7. In your region, talk to two labourers. Choose either farm labourers or labourers working at construction sites. What wages do they get? Are they paid cash or kind? Do they get work regularly? Are they in debt?

Answer

- In our region, there are two labourers namely Ram Khilawan and Basanti, who are husband and Wife working as casual constructing labourers. Due to drought, they had to leave their village in search of employment. They get approximately 50 to 60 rupees per day which they are paid in cash.
- They do not get work regularly because there are a large number of workers seeking employment, due to which they agree to work for low wages. Because of irregular work and low wages they are unable to fulfill their needs and are in debt.

Question 8. What are the different ways of increasing production on the same piece of land? Use examples to explain.

Answer Multiple cropping and use of modern farming methods are two different ways of increasing production on the same piece of land. e.g.,

(i) Multiple Cropping When more than one crop is grown on a piece of land during the year it is known as multiple cropping.

1. It is the most common way to increase production on a given piece of land.
2. All farmers in Palampur grow atleast two main crops, many are growing potato as the third crop in the past fifteen to twenty years.

(ii) Use of Modern Farming Method. Modern farming methods also help to increase the yield per hectare.

- Farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh were the first to try modern farming methods in India.
- The farmers in these regions set up tube wells for irrigation and made use of HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides In farming.
- Some also used farm machinery like tractors and threshers, which made ploughing and harvesting faster. They were rewarded with high yields of wheat, increasing from 1300 kg per hectare to 3200 kg per hectare with HYV seeds.

Question 9. Describe the work of a farmer with 1 hectare of land?

Answer

- A farmer having 1 hectare of land for farming is called a subsistence farmer because 1 hectare of land is too less; for even the sustenance of a small family.
- Production Is very low and it is very difficult for the farmer to provide for his family.
- Apart from working on his own field he has to work on the field of the rich farmers or work as a casual labourer to survive.
- The small farmer has no irrigation facilities.
- He has no working capital so he is also not able to buy modern machinery, HYV seeds or insecticides and pesticides.

- In the absence of capital, he has to take loan from moneylender who charges a high interest rate. He is rarely able to repay the loan and eventually falls into a debt trap.

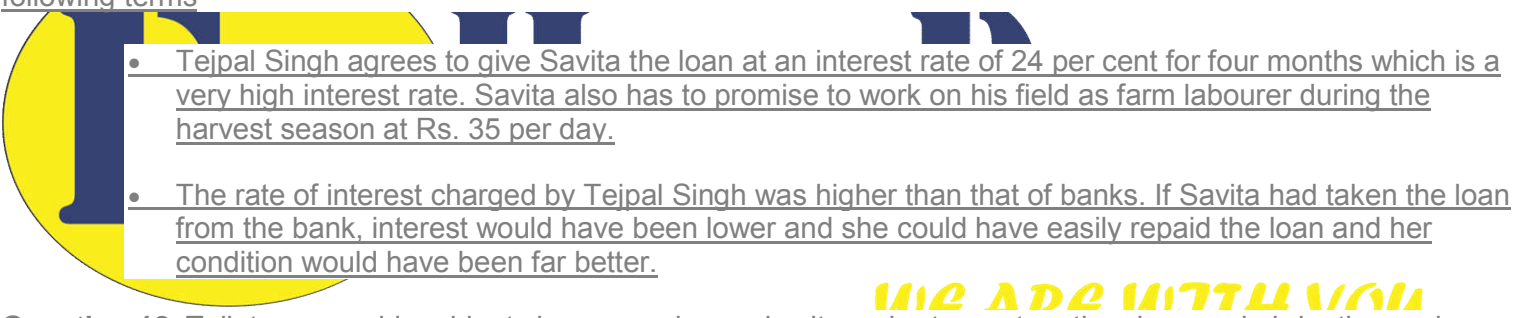
Question 10. How did the medium and large farmers obtain capital for farming? how is it different from the small farmers?

Answer Modern farming methods such as use of HYV insecticides pesticides etc require a great deal of capital so the farmer needs more money than before.

- The medium and large farmers have their own savings from farming. They are thus able to arrange for the capital needed.
- In contrast, the small farmers have to borrow money to arrange for the capital. They borrow from large farmers or the village moneylenders or the traders who supply various inputs for cultivation.
- The rate of interest on such loans is very high. They are put to great distress to repay the loan, which is not so in the case of medium and large farmers.

Question 11. On what terms did Savita get a loan from Tejpal Singh? Would Savita's condition be different if she could get a loan from the bank at a low rate of interest?

Answer Savita, a small farmer, in order to cultivate wheat on her 1 hectare of land, decides to borrow money from Tejpal Singh a large farmer on the following terms

- 
- Tejpal Singh agrees to give Savita the loan at an interest rate of 24 per cent for four months which is a very high interest rate. Savita also has to promise to work on his field as farm labourer during the harvest season at Rs. 35 per day.
 - The rate of interest charged by Tejpal Singh was higher than that of banks. If Savita had taken the loan from the bank, interest would have been lower and she could have easily repaid the loan and her condition would have been far better.

Question 12. Talk to some old residents in your region and write a short report on the changes in irrigation and changes in production methods during the last 30 years.

Answer

- On talking to two old residents Ramlal and Dharam Singh I came to know about the irrigation methods that were traditionally in use in our area. They told me that earlier they were dependent on rainfall and later on they started to use the Persian wheel to draw water from the wells. With development of technology, tubewells were used for more better and effective irrigation.
- In the farming methods, traditionally they ploughed the field with ploughs drawn by bullocks which was a very difficult and time consuming process. They used ordinary seeds and cow dung manure for fertilisation.
- However with changes in technology the farmers started using HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers, insecticides, pesticides and modern machinery like tractors and threshers which has led to an increase in yield per hectare and improved the lives of the farmers.

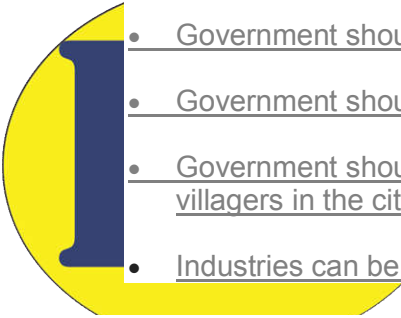
Question 13. What are the non farm activities taking place in your region (or Palampur)? Make a short list

Answer

- Dairy is a common activity in many families of our region.
- Some people are involved in small scale manufacturing in their homes or in the field like production of jaggery by Mishrilal.
- A few people are involved as shopkeepers and traders who buy various goods from the wholesale market in the cities and sell them in the villages.
- Some people near the bus stand have opened shops selling eatables.
- Some people are in the transportation sector ferrying people and carrying goods from one place to another In different types of vehicles.
- People like Kareem opened a computer class centre and also provided employment to two women who had a diploma in computer application.

Question 14. What can be done so that non-farm production activities can be started in villages.

Answer

- 
- Banks should provide loans at low Interest rates so that the poor villagers can start some business to help them earn a living.
 - Government should be more active and start and effective employment generating schemes.
 - Government should provide training to the villagers in different small crafts.
 - Government should provide facilities for transportation and selling of locally manufactured goods of the villagers in the cities.
 - Industries can be set up in rural areas.

NCERT Solutions for Class 9th Social Science ECONOMICS FREEHOMEDelivery.NET: Chapter 2 People as Resource

Question 1. What do you understand by ‘people as a resource’?

Answer : ‘People as a resource’ is a way of referring to a country’s working people in terms of their existing productive skills and abilities.

Because the humans contribute to GDP, they are also considered as a resource.

Question 2. How is human resource different from other resources like land and physical capital?

Answer :

1. Land, water, forests and minerals are resources which are essential for the growth, progress and development of human society.
2. However these resources become usable only when the human being processes them and develops them; otherwise they are of no use on their own. Without human beings these resources would remain unutilised. Thus human resource is the most important resource because it helps to utilise natural resources.

Question 3. What is the role of education in human capital formation?

Answer : Education plays a significant and very vital role in human capital formation because education helps the humans to achieve and realize their full potential and achieve success in life in the form of higher incomes earned through better jobs and higher productivity. Education helps the people by broadening their knowledge and providing them training.

Question 4. What is the role of health in human capital formation?

Answer : Health plays an important role in human capital formation for the following reasons

1. Only a healthy person can perform to his full potential.

2. A healthy person can do the work in a more effective manner.
3. A healthy person can contribute to the growth and development of the economy by doing productive work.
4. An unhealthy person becomes a liability for an organisation. Indeed health is an indispensable basis for realising one's well being.

Realising the importance of health, improvement in the health status of the population has been the priority of the government.

Question 5. What part does health play in the individual's working life ?

Answer : Health plays an important part in the individual's working life because

1. An unhealthy person cannot work efficiently.
2. If the body is healthy then only the mind can perform well.
3. A healthy person is able to work harder and better, thus earning more and living a better life.

Question 6. What are the various activities undertaken in the primary sector, secondary sector, and tertiary sector?

Answer : Primary Sector Activities Agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, poultry farming and mining.

Secondary Sector Activities Include manufacturing and construction.

Tertiary Sector Activities Trade, transport, communication, banking, education, health, tourism, services, insurance, etc.

Question 7. What is the difference between economic activities and non-economic activities?

Answer : The activities which are performed for money and results in economic income are called economic activities. These activities add value to the national income.

Those activities which are not performed for money and do not result in economic income are called non-economic activities.

Question 8. Why are women employed in low paid work?

Answer :

1. A majority of the women in India have very less education and low skill formation and thus they perform mainly unskilled labour and get lower wages.
2. Being less educated they are unaware of their rights and about minimum wages, or they work in the unorganised sector where they get low wages.
3. They are traditionally considered physically inferior to men and believed to do less work, so they are paid less compared to men.

Question 9. How will you explain the term unemployment?



Answer : Unemployment is said to exist when people who are willing to work at the current wages cannot find jobs.

Question 10. What is the difference unemployment and seasonal unemployment?

Answer : Disguised Unemployment between disguised

1. In case of disguised unemployment, people appear to be employed but are actually not employed.
2. Sometimes in agricultural families, eight people are working in the farm, whereas only five people are needed to do that work. Thus three persons are surplus and they are not needed on the farm. They also do not help to increase the production of the farm.
3. If these three extra persons are removed from the farm, the production from the farm will not decrease; therefore these three persons appear to be employed but are actually disguisedly unemployed.

Seasonal Unemployment

1. Seasonal unemployment happens when people are not able to find jobs during some months of the year.
2. People dependent upon agriculture usually face such a kind of problem. There are certain busy seasons when sowing, harvesting, weeding and threshing is done. But when the plants are growing, there is not much work.
3. During this period, they remain unemployed and are said to be seasonally unemployed.

Question 11. Why is educated unemployed a peculiar problem of India?

Answer :

1. In the case of urban areas, educate”dunemployment has become a corrmmon phenomenon. Many urban youth with matriculation, graduation and post graduation degrees are not able to find jobs.
2. A study showed that unemployment of graduates and post graduates has increased faster than among matriculates.
3. A paradoxical manpower situation is witnessed as surplus of manpower in certain categories coexists with shortage of manpower in others.
4. There is unemployment among technically qualified persons on one hand, while there is dearth of technical skills required for economic growth.
5. So we can say that educated unemployment is indeed a peculiar problem of India.

Question 12. In which field do you think India can build the maximum employment opportunity?

Answer :

1. Agriculture sector in India is suffering from disguised unemployment and there is no more possibility of further employment.
2. Unemployed rural labour force is now migrating to the cities to work in the industrial sector where many industries have been set up and has the maximum capacity to provide employment.

3. The educated unemployed can also find jobs in the service sector or the tertiary sector.

Question 13. Can you suggest some measures in the education system to mitigate the problem of the educated unemployed?

Answer :

Vocational education should be encouraged so that after education, people do not have difficulty in getting jobs because they will be better trained for work.

1. More use of Information Technology (IT) should be made in giving education.
2. Education should cater to the needs of the employment markets.
3. More opportunities should be made available in the tertiary sector where more educated unemployed people can find jobs.

Question 14. Can you imagine some village which initially had no job opportunities but later came up with many?

Answer :

Rampur was a small village which initially depended on agriculture which was also dependent on rainfall.

1. Then electricity reached the village and people could irrigate their fields and could grow 2 to 3 crops in a year and get work.
2. Some people set up small scale industries which could be run by electricity and provided employment to people.
3. A school was established and now the population started to become educated and as a result they could seek employment in and outside the village. The village became prosperous and soon had better health, education, transport and job facilities.

Question 15. Which capital would you consider the best land labour physical capital and human capital? Why?

Answer :

1. Land labour physical capital and human capital are very important for the growth and development of the society and the economy.
2. In the absence of any of these resources we cannot hope to much progress, so they are very Important.
3. However, human capital is the most important capital because all other types of capital can be utilised only by humans; if humans do not develop and process other capital or resources and make them usable, they would remain underdeveloped and unutilised because on their own they are useless and of no use to anybody.

If we develop human capital, all others will automatically develop and lead to progress.



NCERT Solutions for Class 9th Social Science ECONOMICS FREEHOMEDelivery.NET: Chapter 3 Poverty as a Challenge

Chapter: Chapter 3 – Poverty as a Challenge

Question 1. Describe how poverty line is estimated in India.

Answer : A common method used to measure poverty is based on income or consumption levels. A person is considered poor if his or her income or ption level falls below a given minimum level necessary to fulfill

consumption needs.

(a) While determining the poverty line in India, a minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light educational and medical requirement etc are determined for subsistence. These physical quantities are multiplied by their price in rupees.

(b) The present formula for food requirement while estimating the poverty line is based on the desired calorie requirement.

(c) Food items such a cereals, pulses, vegetables, milk, oil, sugar etc together provide these needed calories. The need of calories depends on age and the work done by a person.

(d) The accepted average calorie requirement in India is 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per person per day in urban areas.

(e) The calorie requirement of the people in rural areas is higher than that of the people living in urban areas because they do more physical work as compared to urban people.

(f) On the basis of these calculations for the year 2000, the poverty line for a person was fixed at ₹ 328 per month for the rural areas and ₹ 454 for the urban areas.

Despite less calorie requirement the higher amount for urban areas is because of the high prices of many essential products in urban centres.

Question 2. Do you think the present methodology of poverty estimation is appropriate?

Answer : No, the present methodology of poverty estimation is inappropriate because it takes into account only the basic needs of food clothing, fuel, etc. But the quality of these basic necessities is the lowest quality available, which is not appropriate.

(a) The amount which is fixed as the poverty line does not include the margin for price fluctuations and price rise which is constantly occurring.

(b) The poverty line should include some correction for inflation and to take care of the market fluctuations.

Question 3. Describe the poverty trends in India since 1973.

Answer :

There was a substantial decline in poverty ratios in India from about 55 % in 1973 to 36 % in 1993.

(a) The proportion of people below poverty line further came down to about 26 % in 2000.

(b) If the trend continues, people below poverty line may come down to less than 20 % in the next few years.

(c) Although the percentage of the people living under poverty declined in the earlier two decades (1973-1993) the number of poor remained stable around 320 million for a fairly long period.

(d) The latest estimates indicate a significant reduction in the number of poor to about 260 million.

Question 4. Discuss the major reasons for poverty in India.

Answer :

The various causes of poverty in India are Colonial Economic Policies

(a) One historical reason of poverty in India is the low level of economic development under the British colonial administration

(b) The policies of the colonial government ruined traditional handicrafts and discouraged developments of industries and textiles.

(c) The low rate of growth persisted until the 1980s. This resulted in less job opportunities and low growth rate of incomes.

(d) The government failure on both fronts. i.e.. promotion of economic growth and population control perpetuated the cycle of poverty.

Not Enough Jobs in Industries

The Industries set up in the public and private sector provided jobs to many people but the number of job seekers was far more than the jobs available and a large number of people remained unemployed leading to poverty.

Revolution and Employment

(a) The Green Revolution enabled multiple cropping or growing of 2 to 3 crops in, year, which created demand for labour in the agriculture sector. However, the Green Revolution was limited mainly to Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh and provided limited opportunities of work.

(b) The poor farmers could not buy inputs for farming and landholdings were small. Thus their production was low and the poor peasant families could hardly survive.

(c) The poor, especially in rural areas had to take loans for farming inputs and many times were unable to repay the loan. Thus they fell into a debt trap, leading to a worse situation.

(d) Another cause of poverty has been the huge income inequalities.

One of the major reasons for this is the unequal distribution of land and other resources.

(e) Many communities like the Dalits, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes had traditionally been deprived of education, land and social status.

Consequently, they have not been able to raise their standard of living in the absence of education, land and other resources.

(f) To fulfill social obligations and observe religious ceremonies, people in India including the very poor, spend a lot of money. They hardly have any savings, so they borrow money and are unable to repay the loans because of low income, thus falling into a debt trap leading to extreme poverty.

(g) Small farmers need money to buy agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides etc for which they have to take loans which they are unable to repay, thus falling into a debt trap leading to extreme poverty.

Question 5. Identify the economic and social groups which are most vulnerable to poverty in India.

Answer :

(a) The social groups which are most vulnerable to poverty are scheduled caste and scheduled tribe households.

(b) Similarly, among the economic groups, the most vulnerable groups are the rural agricultural labour households and the urban casual labour households.

Question 6. Give an account of interstate disparities of poverty in India.

Answer :

(a) The proportion of poor people is not the same in every state.

(b) Government has made many efforts to reduce poverty by following various programmes but the success rate of reducing poverty is different in different states.

(c) In 20 states and union territories the poverty ratio is less than the national average.

(d) Poverty is still a serious problem in Orissa, Bihar, Assam, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

(e) Orissa and Bihar continue to be the two poorest states with poverty ratios of 47% and 43 % respectively.

(f) There has been a significant decline in poverty in Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal.

(g) States like Punjab and Haryana have traditionally succeeded in reducing poverty with the help of agricultural growth rates.

(h) In West Bengal, land reform measures have helped in reducing poverty.

(i) In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, public distribution of foodgrains has been responsible for the reduction of poverty.

Question 7. Describe global poverty trends.

Answer : The proportion of people in developing countries living in extreme economic poverty i.e., on less than \$ 1 per day as defined by World Bank has fallen from 28 % in 1990 to 21 % in 2001.

There has been a substantial reduction in global poverty, but it is marked with great regional differences.

(a) Poverty declined substantially in China and South Asian countries as a result of rapid economic growth and massive development.

(b) The number of poor in China has come down from 606 million in 1981 to 212 million in 2001.

(c) In the countries of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan) the decline has not been so rapid, it has declined marginally from 475 million in 1981 to 428 million in 2001.

(d) In the Sub Saharan Africa, poverty rose from 41 % in 1981 to 46 % in 2001.

(e) In Latin America the ratio of poverty has remained the same.

(f) Poverty has resurfaced in some of the former socialist countries like Russia, where it was non-existent earlier.

Question 8. Describe current government strategy of poverty alleviation.

Answer :

The current anti-poverty strategy of the government is based broadly on two planks: Promotion of Economic Growth

(a) India's economic growth gained momentum and since the eighties has been one of the fastest in the world.

(b) The growth rate jumped from the average of about 3.5 % a year in 1970's to 6 % during the 1980's and 1990's.

- (c) The higher growth rates have helped significantly in the reduction of poverty.
- (d) It is becoming clear that there is a strong link between economic growth and poverty reduction.
- (e) Economic growth widens opportunities and provides resources to invest in human development.
- (f) This also encourages people to send their children, including girls, to schools in the hope of getting better economic returns from investing in education.

Targeted Anti-Poverty Programmes

Promotion of economic growth was a long term time solution to the problems. but a need was felt for short term target oriented anti-poverty programmes which the government ultimately undertook. Some of the programmes to remove poverty are

- (a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005
- (b) National Food for Work Programme (NFWP) 2004
- (c) Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) 1993
- (d) Rural Employment Generation Programme.(REGP) 1995
- (e) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) 1999
- (f) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yozana (PMGY) 2000
- (g) Antyodaya Anna Yozana (AAY)

Question 9. Answer the following questions briefly

1. What do you understand by human poverty?
2. Who are the poorest of the poor?
3. What are the main features of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005?

Answer :

(i) Human poverty is a definition of poverty which takes us beyond the general definitions of poverty i.e, not having enough money. Being able to earn a fixed amount as set by the government as poverty line does not actually free them from poverty.

A person who is unable to get proper education and shelter and nutritious food, or if a child is forced to child labour or they face social and caste discrimination, then they come under human poverty.

(ii) Women, elderly people and female infants are the poorest of the poor in society.

Women, elderly people and the girl child are systematically denied equal access to the resources available in the family. That is why they are considered the poorest of the poor.

(iii) The main features of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 are

(a) The act provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural household in 200 districts. Later the scheme will be extended to 600 districts.

(b) 1/3rd of the proposed jobs would be reserved for women.

(c) The central government will also establish National employment Guarantee Funds. Similarly, the State Government will also establish the State Employment Guarantee Funds for the implementation of the scheme.

(d) Under the scheme if an applicant is not provided employment within 15 days he/she will be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.

Question 1. How is food security ensured in India?

Answer Food security is ensured in India by

- Creation of buffer stock.
- Introduction of the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- Running other special programmes like
 - (i) Food for work programme
 - (ii) Mid-day meal in schools
 - (iii) Integrated child development services

Question 2. Which are the people more prone to food insecurity ?

Answer A large section of people suffer from food and nutrition insecurity in India. The worst affected are

- The landless people with little or no land to depend on.
- Traditional artisans.
- Providers of traditional services, petty self employed workers and destitutes, including beggars.
- Urban casual labourers engaged in seasonal activities.
- The SCs, STs and some sections of OBCs.
- People affected by natural disasters

Question 3. Which states are more food insecure in India ?

Answer The states of Uttar Pradesh (Eastern and South Eastern parts) Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bangal, Chhattisgarh parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra account for the majority of food insecure areas of the country.

Question 4. Do you believe that Green Revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains ? How ?

Answer

- Yes, the Green Revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains.
- India adopted a new strategy in agriculture in which HYV, insecticides and pesticides were used which resulted in Green Revolution or great production of wheat and rice.
- The highest rate of growth was achieved in Punjab and Haryana where food grain production jumped from 7.23 million tonnes In 1964-65 to an all time high of 30.33 million tonnes in 1995.
- The success of wheat was later replicated in rice production.

Question 5. A section of the people in India are still without food. Explain.

Answer

- Despite achieving self sufficiency in foodgrains as a result of the Green Revolution, a section of people in India are still without food because of poverty. Thus, landless the labourers, casual urban workers, SCs and STs who are below the poverty line find it impossible to get two square meals a day.
- The PDS is not functioning properly because the ration shop owners are diverting the grains to the open market. Low quality grains are available at ration shops which often remain unsold.
- Corruption in the PDS and extreme poverty are the two basic reasons that even today some people are still without food in India.

Question 6. What happens to the supply of food when there is a disaster or a calamity ?

Answer

- When the country faces a national disaster/calamity like earthquake, drought, flood or tsunami, there is widespread failure of crops. Standing crops are destroyed, leading to shortage of foodgrains which results in price rise and hardship to all.
- If the crop is not destroyed, sometimes the transport system is affected and transportation of foodgrains from the food surplus areas becomes impossible. This leads to shortage of Foodgrains in other areas.

Question 7. Differentiate between seasonal hunger and chronic hunger.

Answer Hunger has seasonal and chronic dimensions.

Seasonal Hunger 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 labour.
- This type of hunger exists when a person is unable to get work for the entire year, e.g., many casual construction labourers during rainy season become unemployed.

Chronic Hunger

- Chronic hunger is a consequence of diets persistently inadequate in terms of quantity and quality.
- Poor people suffer from chronic hunger because of their very low income and in turn inability to buy food even for survival.

Question 8. What has government done to provide food security to the poor? Discuss any two schemes launched by the government.

Answer To provide food security to the poor, the government has implemented the following

- Creating a buffer stock of foodgrains for distribution when and where needed.
- Public Distribution System for making available foodgrains to the poor at highly subsidised rates. Besides these, a number of schemes have been launched. During the 1970s, the following

schemes were started

(i) Integrated Child Development Services

(ii) Food for Work Programme


In the year 2000, the following schemes were launched

- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana** (My) This scheme is for the poorest of the poor. Under this scheme, 35 kg of foodgrains per month are made available to a family at Rs 2 per kg for wheat and Rs 3 per kg for rice.
- **Annapurna Scheme** (APS) This is meant for indigent senior citizens who are not having any family to support them. Under this scheme, 10 kg of foodgrains per month are made available to them free of cost.

Question 9. Why buffer stock is created by the government ?

Answer

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.

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1. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops. This is called the Minimum Support Price.
 2. The purchased food grains are stored in the granaries and called buffer stock. This is done to distribute food grains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price, also known as issue price.
 3. This also helps to resolve the shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during a period of calamity.

Question 10. Write notes on

(a) Minimum Support Price

(b) Buffer Stock

(c) Issue Price

(d) Fair Price Shops

Answer

(a) Minimum Support Price

1. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production.
2. The farmers are paid pre-announced price for their crops. This price is called Minimum Support Price (MSP).
3. The MSP is declared by the government every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to the farmers for raising production of these crops.

(b) Buffer Stock

1. Buffer stock is the stock of foodgrains namely wheat and rice procured by the government through Food Corporation of India (FCI).
2. The FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production and stores this grain in the granaries as buffer stock.
3. This is done to distribute food grains in the deficit areas and among the poor strata of society when there is shortage of foodgrains because of crop failure due to natural calamities.

(c) Issue Price

- The FCI purchases foodgrains from the farmers in states with surplus food production and stores it in granaries.
- This is done to distribute food grains in the deficit areas and among the poor state of society at a price lower than the market price which is also known as issue price.

(d) Fair Price Shops

- The food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer sections of the society.

This is called Public Distribution System (PDS).

- Ration shops are now present in most localities villages, towns and cities.
- Ration shops are also known as fair price shops.
- These fair price shops keep stocks of foodgrains, sugar and kerosene oil. Here these items are sold at a price lower than the market price.

Question 11. What are the problems of the functioning of ration shops?

Answer

- The PDS dealers are sometimes found resorting to malpractices like diverting the grains to open market for more profit.
- Dealers sell poor quality grains at ration shops.
- Ration shops are opened at irregular time creating problems for the people.
- It is common to find that ration shops regularly have unsold stocks of poor quality grains.

Question 12. Write a note on the role of co-operatives in providing food and related items.

Answer The co-operatives are also playing an important role in food security in India, especially in the Southern and Western parts of the country.

- The cooperative societies set up shops to sell low priced goods to poor people.

- In Delhi, Mother Dairy is making progress in provision of milk and vegetables to the consumers at controlled rates decided by the Government of Delhi.
- Amul is another success story of co-operatives in milk and milk products from Gujarat. It has brought about the white revolution in the country.
- These are a few example of many co-operatives running in different parts of the country ensuring food security of different sections of society.

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