

Economics - Ch.4 - Food security in India

Continuation of notes ---

Q. Do you believe that green revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains? How?

A: After independence, Indian policy makers adopted all measures to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains. India adopted a new strategy in agriculture, which resulted in the 'Green Revolution' especially in the production of wheat and rice.

The highest growth rate was achieved in Punjab and Haryana. Since the advent of Green Revolution in the early 1970's, the country has avoided famines even during adverse weather conditions. Green Revolution has made India self-sufficient in food grains.

Q. A section of people in India are still without food. Explain?

A: A section of people like SC, ST and OBCs, people affected by natural disasters, women (pregnant and nursing mothers) and children under the age of 5 yrs. in India are still without food. The main reason for this unfortunate is that many poor families don't even have enough money or income to buy food in other words, there is availability of food and accessibility to food, but poor families don't have affordability to food.

Q. Why buffer stock is created by the government?

A: * Buffer stock is created by the government 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 Fishe Price.

* This also helps resolve the problem of shortage of food during adverse weather conditions or during adverse weather the periods of calamity.

* The buffer stock save the farmers from ups and downs of the market. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops known as Minimum Support Price.

Q. What are the problems of the functioning of ration shops?

A: * The ration shops are found to be inefficient and marked with various malpractices like diverting the grains to open market for higher gain, selling poor quality ~~grain~~ grains, irregular opening of the shops etc.

* With the introduction of three types of ration cards, the price of commodities for APL families is as high as in open market.

* It is common to find rationshops regularly have unsold stocks of poor quality grains left. The ration shops are unable to sell and a massive stock of food grains piles up with the FCI.

Q. Write a note on the role of cooperatives in providing food and related items.

A: * The cooperatives play an important role in food security in India especially in the southern and western parts of the country.

low priced goods to poor people.

* Amul is a success story of cooperatives in milk and milk products from Gujarat. It has brought about the White Revolution in the country.

* Q - How has the PDS proved to be the most effective in ensuring food security in India?

A - i) It has stabilised prices and making food available to consumers at affordable prices.

ii) It helps in reducing widespread hunger and famine by supplying food from surplus regions of the country to the deficit ones.

iii) The prices have been under revision in favour of poor households in general.

Q. What factors have led to the decline of PDS?

A - i) PDS has faced severe criticisms on several grounds:

i) Instances of hunger are prevalent despite overflowing granaries.

ii) FCI godowns are overflowing with grains, with some rotting away and some being eaten by rats.

iii) PDS dealers are sometimes found resorting to malpractices like diverting the grains to open market to get better margins, selling poor quality grains at ration shops, irregular opening of shops etc.
