

# TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



STELLAR LEARNING

# Economics

9

On  
Board!

BOOKS

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# The Story of Village Palampur

## Check Your Progress

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- The main economic activity of Palampur village is
  - hunting.
  - fishing.
  - farming.
  - dairy production.

**Ans.** (c) farming.

- What is the main source of irrigation in Palampur?
  - Tube wells
  - Wells
  - Persian Wheel
  - Rainwater harvesting

**Ans.** (a) Tube wells

- Which state uses chemical fertilisers the most?
  - Haryana
  - Punjab
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Bihar

**Ans.** (b) Punjab

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Name the standard unit of measuring land.

**Ans.** The standard unit of measuring land is hectare.

- What do you mean by working capital?

**Ans.** Raw materials and money in hand are called working capital.

- Farmer's plough is an example of which factor of production?

Or

Which factor of production is a farmer's plough?

**Ans.** Farmer's plough comes under the category of fixed capital.

### Short Answer Type Questions

- Describe the process of multiple cropping as practised in Palampur.

**Ans.** Multiple cropping refers to growing more than one crop on the same piece of land during an year. It is the most common way of increasing production. Every piece of land is cultivated in

Palampur. During the kharif season farmers grow jowar and bajra which are used as cattle feed. It is followed by cultivation of potato between October and December. During the rabi season, fields are sown with wheat. A part of the land area is also devoted to sugarcane which is harvested once every year.

- Why do the small farmers borrow money?

**Ans.** Most small farmers are forced to borrow money in order to arrange for the capital. They borrow from large farmers or the village moneylenders or the traders who supply various inputs for the farming activities. A high rate of interest is levied on these loans due to which they are put to great distress to repay the loan.

- Which Indian states were the first to try out the modern farming methods? What were the results?

**Ans.** Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh were the first states in India to try out the modern farming methods. Many farmers in these regions set up tube-wells for irrigation purpose and used the HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides for cultivation of various crops. Some of them also used farm machinery, like tractors and threshers, which made ploughing and harvesting faster. All these modern techniques resulted in the high yields of wheat per hectare, due to which farmers now had greater amounts of surplus wheat which they can sell in the markets.

### Long Answer Type Questions

- Elucidate why small farmers get caught in debt.

**Ans.** Most of the small farmers were forced to borrow money in order to arrange for the capital. They borrowed money from large farmers or the village moneylenders or the traders who supply various inputs for cultivation. On the capital borrowed, a high rate of interest was levied. They were put

to great distress to pay back the loans. On the contrary, the medium and large farmers have their own savings from farming. They were able to arrange for their own capital. They used to sell their surplus in the market. A part of this is saved and the rest is used to buy machinery and other raw materials or lend it to the small farmers to make more profit.

11. What are the steps that can be taken for improving farm productivity?

**Ans.** Following are the five different ways for increasing the farm productivity:

- Use of multiple cropping. It means growing more than one crop on a given piece of land at the same time.
- Use of HYV's. These can be used to produce much greater amounts of grain in a single plant.
- Use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Their use produce better results by providing sufficient materials to the soil and pesticides protecting the crops from pest attacks.
- Use of modern equipment like tractors, threshers, which made ploughing and harvesting faster.
- Use of tube wells for irrigation. Tube wells run by electricity irrigate much larger area in a more effective manner and increase the yields.

12. Why do modern farming methods require a farmer to have more cash than was required before?

**Ans.** The modern farming methods require a farmer to have more cash than was required before because of following reasons:

- In modern farming, the ploughing is done using tractors which requires more capital in comparison to manual ploughing. Using tractors for ploughing is less time consuming with better result and productivity.
- Tube wells and pumping sets are used in modern farming, which results in investment of more capital.
- An extra cost is also incurred for using advanced technology, better pest control, HYVs seeds, chemical fertilisers, etc.

## Self-Assessment

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- Green Revolution is related to
  - dairy production.
  - fishing.
  - grain production.
  - tea production.

**Ans.** (c) grain production.

- Growing more than one crop on a piece of land during a year is known as

- mixed farming.
- multiple cropping.
- subsistence farming.
- intensive farming.

**Ans.** (b) multiple cropping.

- Tools, machines, buildings can be used for many years and are called

- fixed capital.
- working capital.
- human capital.
- none of these.

**Ans.** (a) fixed capital.

- Read the given table and answer the following question.

Years	Cultivated Area (in Million Hectares)
1950-51	132
1990-91	186
2000-01	186
2010-11 (P)	198
2011-12 (P)	196
2012-13 (P)	194
2013-14 (P)	201
2014-15 (P)	198
2015-16 (P)	197
2016-17 (P)	200

In which year the cultivated area was the highest?

- 1950-51
- 1990-91
- 2013-14 (P)
- 2000-01

**Ans.** (c) 2013-14 (P)

- Which of the following statements given below list the economic activities of Palampur? Choose the correct option.

- Farming is the main occupation.
- Some villagers are engaged in food processing.
- Some villagers are engaged in manufacturing done on a small scale.
- The number of people involved in transport services has increased over the last several years.

Options:

- Statements I, II and III are correct.
- Statements II and III are correct.
- Statements I, III and IV are correct.
- Statements I and IV are correct.

**Ans.** (c) Statements I, III and IV are correct.

- Choose the right option to fill in the blank.

The continuous use of groundwater for tubewell irrigation has .....

- raised the water table.
- no effect on the water table.

- (c) led to the depletion of the water table.
- (d) led to the decline in food grain production.

**Ans.** (c) led to the depletion of the water table.

7. Which of the following is not the distinct feature of farming in Palampur?
- (a) All land is cultivated in Palampur.
  - (b) Some land is left idle.
  - (c) During the kharif season people grow jowar and bajra.
  - (d) A part of the land is devoted to sugarcane.

**Ans.** (b) Some land is left idle.

### Assertion-Reason Type Questions

**For question numbers 8 to 11, two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.**

#### Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

8. **Assertion (A):** Farming is the main production activity in Palampur.

**Reason (R):** 75 per cent of the people who are working are dependent on farming for their livelihood.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

9. **Assertion (A):** Palampur would resemble a village of the eastern part of the state of Uttar Pradesh.

**Reason (R):** All land is cultivated in Palampur. No land is left idle.

**Ans.** (d) A is false but R is true.

10. **Assertion (A):** Compared to the traditional seeds, the HYV seeds promised to produce much greater amounts of grain on a single plant.

**Reason (R):** The Green Revolution in the late 1970s introduced the Indian farmer to cultivation of wheat and rice using high yielding varieties (HYVs) of seeds.

**Ans.** (c) A is true but R is false.

11. **Assertion (A):** Farmers of Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh were the first to try out the modern farming method in India.

**Reason (R):** The farmers in these regions set up tube-wells for irrigation, and made use of HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides in farming.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

### Match the Following

12. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Years)	Column B (Cultivated Area in Million Hectares)
A. 1990-91	1. 186
B. 2000-01	2. 186
C. 1950-51	3. 132
D. 2014-15	4. 198

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 1	2	3	4
(b) 2	4	1	3
(c) 4	1	3	2
(d) 1	3	2	4

**Ans.** (a) 1 2 3 4

### Study the Picture and Answer the Question



13. Which of the following options best describes the given image?

- (a) Non-farm activities
- (b) Traditional method of cultivation
- (c) Modern method of cultivation
- (d) Small-scale manufacturing

**Ans.** (c) Modern method of cultivation

### Find the Incorrect Option

14. (a) In Palampur, about one third of the 450 families are landless.
- (b) In Palampur, there are 60 families of medium and large farmers who cultivate more than 5 hectares of land.

- (c) The minimum wages for a farm labourer set by the government is ₹ 300 per day (March 2017), but Dala gets only ₹ 160.
- (d) Dairy is a common activity in many families of Palampur.

**Ans.** (b) In Palampur, there are 60 families of medium and large farmers who cultivate more than 5 hectares of land.

### Correct and Rewrite the Following Statement

15. The fertility of soil is associated with the Green Revolution due to increased use of chemical fertilisers, in many areas.

**Ans.** In many areas, Green Revolution is associated with the loss of soil fertility due to increased use of chemical fertilisers.

### Fill in the Blanks

16. Land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship are known as **factors of production**.
17. Green Revolution is associated with the loss of **soil fertility** due to increase in use of chemical fertilisers.
18. **Physical capital** is the amount of money or assets that are invested in business.

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

19. Name any three sources of irrigation in Palampur.

**Ans.** Tanks, tube-wells and canals are three sources of irrigation in Palampur.

20. What is the meaning of 'capital' with respect to agriculture?

**Ans.** The meaning of 'capital' with respect to agriculture is physical capital, i.e. the variety of inputs required at every stage during production.

21. Why did soil fertility decline in the erstwhile Green Revolution areas?

**Ans.** In many regions, the Green Revolution contributed to a decline in soil fertility. This was primarily due to the excessive use of chemical fertilisers, which depleted soil nutrients over time.

22. How is fixed capital different from working capital?

**Ans.** Fixed capital includes long-term assets like tools, machines, and buildings, used over many years in production. In contrast, working capital includes raw materials and money, which are consumed during production.

### Short Answer Type Questions

23. State four requirements for production.

**Ans.** The four requirements of production are Land, Labour, Physical capital and Human capital.

- Land is required for growing crops, building factories and infrastructure. It is a passive factor of production.
- Different production activities require different types of workers; each worker provides labour necessary for production.
- Physical capital means the variety of inputs like machines, tools, raw materials and money required at every stage of production.
- Human capital refers to knowledge and enterprise that are required to put together land labour and physical capital to produce an output.

24. Gopal has set-up a dairy in Palampur. What are two factors he should consider for starting a successful business here?

**Ans.** Dairy is a common activity in many families of Palampur. In order to start a successful dairy business, Gopal should ensure an uninterrupted supply of fodder (various kinds of grass and the jowar) for buffaloes. Another factor which should be taken care of is the availability of the market for the product to be sold. Also there should be a collection cum chilling centres for storing the milk.

25. Name the crops that are grown in Palampur. In which seasons are they grown?

**Ans.** In Palampur three or more crops are produced during a year on a given piece of land. In the rainy (kharif) season, farmers grow jowar and bajra. Potato is cultivated between October and December. In the winter (rabi) season, wheat is cultivated. Sugar cane is also grown on a part of the land. All farmers of Palampur grow at least two main crops and a third crop. This has been possible because of the well-developed system of irrigation in the village. Electricity has transformed the irrigation system in Palampur.

26. 'In villages across India, farming is the main production activity'. Justify the statement.

**Ans.** It is true that farming is the main production activity in the villages across India. It is because of the lack of development activities and infrastructure in villages. Urban areas are mostly far away from the villages so people are left with no other option than to opt for farming activities for their livelihood. However, now-a-days the government has taken many initiatives to make the farming activities more attractive. Government offers the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers for their crop which in turn assures the farmers of their income.

27. Why do small farmers have to resort to loans to meet their capital requirements?

**Ans.** Small farmers possess small land holdings. The production is barely enough to meet their domestic needs. They do not have a marketable surplus which they can sell to earn cash. Therefore, they have to often rely on loans at high interest rates to meet their capital requirements.

28. How did the use of chemical fertilisers affect Indian agriculture in the aftermath of the Green Revolution?

**Ans.** The use of chemical fertilisers increased the production levels initially as they made minerals available to plants readily. However, over time, it also led to a decrease in soil fertility. Chemical fertilisers killed the bacteria and other micro-organisms in the soil depriving soil of biological action.

### Paragraph Based Questions

29. Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

#### **Source A – Is there a way one can grow more from the same land?**

Farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh were the first to try out the modern farming method 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 of them bought farm machinery, like tractors and threshers, which made ploughing and harvesting faster. They were rewarded with high yields of wheat.

(a) Discuss the cultivation methods adopted by the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh.

#### **Source B – Will the land sustain?**

Land being a natural resource, it is necessary to be careful in its use. Scientific reports indicate that the modern farming methods have overused the natural resource base.

(b) Do you agree that modern farming methods are responsible for depleting natural resources? Give reasons.

#### **Source C – Dairy — the other common activity**

Dairy is a common activity in many families of Palampur. People feed their buffaloes on various kinds of grass and the jowar and bajra that grows during the rainy season.

(c) Which type of crops are grown in rainy season?

**Ans.** (a) Farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh were the first in India to try modern farming methods. They adopted modern cultivation methods such as:

- The farmers set up tube-wells for irrigation.
- Use of HYV seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides in farming.
- They also bought modern farm machinery, like tractors and threshers, which made ploughing and harvesting faster.

(b) Yes, we do agree that modern farming methods are somewhere responsible for depleting our natural resources. Some of the reasons are overuse of chemical fertilisers, groundwater and soil degradation.

(c) Jowar and Bajra are grown in rainy season.

### Case Based Questions

30. The aim of production is to produce the goods and services that we want. There are four requirements for production of goods and services. The first requirement is land, and other natural resources such as water, forests, minerals. The second requirement is labour, i.e. people who will do the work. Some production activities require highly educated workers to perform the necessary tasks. Other activities require workers who can do manual work. Each worker is providing the labour necessary for production. The third requirement is physical capital, i.e. the variety of inputs required at every stage during production. These inputs include tools, machines, buildings. Tools and machines range from very simple tools such as a farmer's plough to sophisticated machines such as generators, turbines, computers, etc. Tools, machines, buildings can be used in production over many years, and are called fixed capital. Other necessary physical capital includes raw materials and money in hand. Production requires a variety of raw materials such as the yarn used by the weaver and the clay used by the potter. Also, some money is always required during production to make payments and buy other necessary items. Raw materials and money in hand are called working capital. Unlike tools, machines and buildings, these are used up in production. There is a fourth requirement too. You will need knowledge and enterprise to be able to put together land, labour and physical capital and produce an output either to use yourself or to sell in the market. This these days is called human capital.

30.1 What are the four essential requirements for the production of goods and services?

**Ans.** The four essential requirements for production are land (including natural resources), labour (workers), physical capital (tools, machines, raw materials), and human capital (knowledge and enterprise).



**30.2** How does physical capital contribute to the production process?

**Ans.** Physical capital includes tools, machines, buildings, raw materials, and money. It provides the necessary inputs at every stage of production, enabling the transformation of resources into goods and services.

**30.3** Why is human capital considered an essential requirement for production?

**Ans.** Human capital, encompassing knowledge and enterprise, is essential for organising land, labour, and physical capital, ensuring that the production process is effective and produces desired outputs for personal use or market sale.

**31.** Palampur is well-connected with neighbouring villages and towns. Raiganj, a big village, is 3 km from Palampur. An all-weather road connects the village to Raiganj and further on to the nearest small town of Shahpur. Many kinds of transport are visible on this road starting from bullock carts, tongas, bogeys (wooden cart drawn by buffalos) loaded with jaggery (gur) and other commodities to motor vehicles like motorcycles, jeeps, tractors and trucks. This village has about 450 families belonging to several different castes. The 80 upper caste families own the majority of land in the village. Their houses, some of them quite large, are made of brick with cement plastering. The SCs (dalits) comprise one-third of the population and live in one corner of the village and in much smaller houses some of which are of mud and straw. Most of the houses have electric connections. Electricity powers all the tube wells in the fields and is used in various types of small business. Palampur has two primary schools and one high school. There is a primary health centre run by the government and one private dispensary where the sick are treated.

**31.1** How is Palampur connected to nearby towns and villages?

**Ans.** Palampur is connected to Raiganj, a large village 3 km away, by an all-weather road. This road extends further to Shahpur, a nearby small town, facilitating the movement of various kinds of transport including bullock carts, tongas, jeeps, and trucks.

**31.2** What is the significance of electricity in Palampur?

**Ans.** Electricity in Palampur is crucial as it powers all the tube wells in the agricultural fields, enabling efficient irrigation. Additionally, it supports various small businesses, contributing to the village's economic activities and improving the overall quality of life.

**31.3** What education and health care facilities are available in Palampur?

**Ans.** Palampur offers educational opportunities through two primary schools and one high school, ensuring access to basic education for children. For healthcare, the village has a government-run primary health centre and a private dispensary, providing essential medical services to the residents.

**32.** In the kind of crops grown and facilities available, Palampur would resemble a village in the western part of the state of Uttar Pradesh. All land is cultivated in Palampur. No land is left idle. During the rainy season (kharif), farmers grow jowar and bajra. These plants are used as cattle feed. It is followed by the cultivation of potatoes between October and December. In the winter season (rabi), fields are sown with wheat. From the wheat produced, farmers keep enough wheat for the family's consumption and sell the surplus wheat at the market in Raiganj. A part of the land area is also devoted to sugarcane, which is harvested once every year. Sugarcane, in its raw form or as jaggery, is sold to traders in Shahpur.

The main reason why farmers are able to grow three different crops a year in Palampur is due to the well-developed system of irrigation. Electricity came early to Palampur. Its major impact was to transform the system of irrigation.

To grow more than one crop on a piece of land during the year is known as multiple cropping. It is the most common way of increasing production on a given piece of land. All farmers in Palampur grow at least two main crops; many are growing potatoes as the third crop in the past fifteen to twenty years.

**32.1** Does the village of Palampur make good use of its land resources? If yes, then how?

**Ans.** Yes, the villagers in Palampur make good use of their land resources. All land is cultivated and no land is left idle. Crops are grown across the kharif and rabi seasons. Also, the farmers in Palampur practice multiple cropping to derive maximum benefits from the available land.

**32.2** How surplus produce is handled in Palampur?

**Ans.** In Palampur, the surplus produce from agriculture is sold in the markets. For example – The surplus wheat left after domestic consumption is sold at the market in Raiganj. This supplements the income of the farmers which they can use to improve their living standards.

**32.3** List benefits of multiple cropping.

**Ans.** Multiple cropping increases the intensity of production from the same landholding. Consequently, production and soil fertility rise and a marketable surplus is available to the farmers. This surplus augments the income of the farmers



which they can spend on education, healthcare, and improving their living standard.

- 33.** Let us suppose that the farmers have produced wheat on their lands using the three factors of production. The wheat is harvested, and production is complete. What do the farmers do with the wheat? They retain a part of the wheat for the family's consumption and sell the surplus wheat. Small farmers like Savita and Gobind's sons have little surplus wheat because their total production is small and from this a substantial share is kept for their own family needs. So it is the medium and large farmers who supply wheat to the market. Bullock carts loaded with wheat can be seen heading to the market, where traders buy the wheat and sell it further to shopkeepers in towns and cities.

Tejpal Singh, a large farmer, has a surplus of 350 quintals of wheat from all his lands! He sells the surplus wheat at the Raiganj market and earns a good income.

Last year, Tejpal Singh had put most of the money in his bank account. Later, he used the savings to lend money to farmers like Savita, who needed a loan. He also used the savings to arrange for the working capital for farming in the next season. This year, Tejpal Singh plans to use his earnings to buy another tractor. Another tractor would increase his fixed capital.

Like Tejpal Singh, other large and medium farmers sell surplus products. A part of the earnings is saved and kept for buying capital for the next season. Thus they are able to arrange for the capital for farming from their own savings. Some farmers might also use the savings to buy cattle, trucks, or set up shops, which constitute capital for non-farm activities.

- 33.1** How does surplus produce of large farmers help them?

**Ans.** The surplus produce of large farmers has a multiplier effect because it can be sold in the market for a good income. This income can be used to improve farming methods, buy capital, or lend to other small farmers.

- 33.2** How do small landholdings affect the farmers?

**Ans.** Small landholdings impact the earnings of small farmers. The production from small landholdings is limited and there is little to no scope for increasing production. This also means that small farmers do not have a substantial surplus to sell in the market. Hence, the income of small farmers is limited.

- 33.3** Mention some of the ways in which condition of small farmers can be improved.

**Ans.** The best way to improve the condition of small farmers is by bringing equitable land distribution. Land is the source of all income in villages. Better land redistribution will ensure improved production levels, surplus availability, and income augmentation. Consequently, small farmers would be able to engage in non-farm activities to further increase their incomes.

- 34.** To grow more than one crop on a piece of land during the year is known as multiple cropping. It is the most common way of increasing production on a given piece of land. All farmers in Palampur grow at least two main crops; many are growing potato as the third crop in the past fifteen to twenty years. Yield is measured as crop produced on a given piece of land during a single season. Till the mid 1960s, the seeds used in cultivation were traditional ones with relatively low yields. Traditional seeds needed less irrigation. Farmers used cow-dung and other natural manure as fertilisers. All these were readily available with the farmers who did not have to buy them. The Green Revolution in the late 1960s introduced the Indian farmer to cultivation of wheat and rice using high yielding varieties (HYVs) of seeds.

- 34.1** Define the term multiple cropping.

**Ans.** When more than one crop is grown on a piece of land during one year is known as multiple cropping. This method is used in order to increase production on a given piece of land.

- 34.2** Discuss the cultivation methods used in mid 1960s.

**Ans.** The traditional seeds with low yields were used in cultivation till the mid 1960s. The traditional seeds need less water for irrigation. Farmers used cow-dung and other natural manure as fertilisers.

- 34.3** Define yield.

**Ans.** Yield is measured as crop produced on a given piece of land during a single season.

### Long Answer Type Questions

- 35.** Write in detail about the production activities, other than agriculture, that have been taken up by the people of Palampur.

**Ans.** Non-farming activities refer to the activities apart from farming. Some of the non-farming activities taken up by the people of Palampur are as follows:

- **Dairy farming:** People in Palampur rear buffaloes. Milk is sold in nearby villages. Some people also set up collection and chilling centres from where milk is transported to the nearby cities and towns. It has become an important secondary source of income for rural families.

- **Shop keeping:** Shopkeepers in Palampur buy goods from wholesale markets in the cities and sell them in the villages. Small stores sell a wide range of products like rice, wheat, sugar, oil, etc.
- **Small scale manufacturing:** This involves simple production methods and is done on small scale. These are carried out at home with family members as labourers.
- **Transport:** There are different means of transport like rickshaws, tongas, trucks, jeeps and tractors. These means of transport are used to transport goods and people from villages to cities and the people get for this.

36. Should farmers generate surplus produce? With regard to the amount of surplus generated, discuss how small farmers and large farmers procure capital.

**Ans.** Yes, it is necessary for the farmers to generate surplus crops so that in addition to fulfilling their own needs they can sell the surplus in the market to earn profits. Medium and large farmers sell surplus farm produce in the market and earn good money. The money so earned is used to buy capital for farming in the next season. Thus, medium and large farmers are able to arrange the capital required for farming from their own savings. On the other hand, small farmers do not have their own savings because their production is small which is mainly used for fulfilling their own family needs. Small farmers, therefore, avail loans from the medium and large farmers at very high rates of interest. Small farmers also borrow money from various inputs for cultivation. These farmers are put to a great distress to repay the loan.

## ———— Let's Compete ————

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- Which of the following is a *Rabi* crop?
  - Wheat
  - Rice
  - Cotton
  - Jowar

**Ans.** (a) Wheat

- Which of the following is fixed capital?
  - Tools and machines
  - Fertilisers and pesticides
  - Soil
  - Seeds

**Ans.** (a) Tools and machines

- Money in hand is an example of
  - human capital.
  - fixed capital.
  - working capital.
  - physical capital.

**Ans.** (c) working capital.

- HYV seeds stands for
  - Heavy-Yielding Variety seeds.
  - High-Yielding Variety seeds.
  - Half-Yielding Variety seeds.
  - None of these.

**Ans.** (b) High-Yielding Variety seeds.

- Which one is a natural resource?
  - Labour
  - Raw materials
  - Minerals
  - None of these

**Ans.** (c) Minerals

- The activities such as small manufacturing, transport, shop-keeping are referred to as
  - non-economic activities.
  - non-farming activities.
  - non-traditional activities.
  - non-market activities.

**Ans.** (b) non-farming activities.

- Which one of the following persons puts together land, labour and capital?
  - Moneylender
  - Entrepreneur
  - Zamindar
  - Manager

**Ans.** (b) Entrepreneur

- A farmer who owns one hectare of land is treated as a
  - medium farmer.
  - small farmer.
  - large farmer.
  - none of these.

**Ans.** (b) small farmer.

- 'White Revolution' is related to
  - milk production.
  - grain production.
  - irrigation.
  - rainwater harvesting.

**Ans.** (a) milk production.

- Where do most of the small farmers borrow money from to arrange for capital in Palampur?
  - Banks
  - Cooperative societies
  - Moneylenders
  - Friends and relatives

**Ans.** (c) Moneylenders

## ———— Life Skills ————

- What social and moral values of rural India are reflected in the story of the hypothetical village of Palampur?

**Ans.** Some of the important social and moral values of rural India reflected in the story of the hypothetical village of Palampur are as follows:

- Land distribution among the farmers of Palampur
- Cropping seasons (*Kharif* and *Rabi*)

- Source of labour who works in the agricultural fields
  - Difference in wages of the labourers working in the fields
  - Source of capital needed for cultivation
  - Non-farming activities like Dairy, etc.
  - Development in the transport sector
  - Features of small scale manufacturing
2. Exploitation is a way of life for farmers in India. Do you agree with this statement? Also, do you think exploitation is morally wrong? Justify your answer.

**Ans.** Yes, I completely agree with the statement that, exploitation is a way of life for farmers in India. Primarily the small farmers are the victim of exploitation in India. They own small pieces of land and they are always in need of funds for the cultivation purpose. Most of them are at the mercy of village moneylenders, etc. for loans. The moneylenders charge exorbitant rate of interest from these small farmers. In case of crop failure the small farmers are not able to repay the loans and they are forced to sell their piece of land to the moneylenders. Yes, exploitation in any form is morally wrong.

# People as Resource

## Check Your Progress

### Multiple-Choice Questions

- Name the sector of which biotechnology is a part.  
(a) Primary sector (b) Secondary sector  
(c) Tertiary sector (d) None of these

**Ans.** (c) Tertiary sector

- Human resource which is further developed through education and health measures is called  
(a) human capital foundation.  
(b) human capital formation.  
(c) human capital function.  
(d) human capital facility.

**Ans.** (b) human capital formation.

- Disguised unemployment can be found in  
(a) social forestry. (b) mining sector.  
(c) service sector. (d) agriculture sector.

**Ans.** (d) agriculture sector.

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

- A person is making paper envelopes. In which sector should his activity be included?

**Ans.** This person is making paper envelopes, so his activity should be included in secondary sector.

- What is the aim of the National Health Policy of India?

**Ans.** The National Health Policy aims at improving the accessibility of healthcare, family welfare and nutritional services with special focus on the underprivileged segment of the population.

### Short Answer Type Questions

- How is unemployment an obstacle to economic growth? Explain.

**Ans.** Unemployment has negative effects on the economic development of a country. There is

wastage of manpower resources. It leads to increase in economic overload and the number of dependents on the working population. The quality of life of every individual in the society is adversely affected. Youth suffers from the feeling of hopelessness. The time duration lost in the unemployment is an irrecoverable loss. It is the loss of productivity which cannot be compensated. Thus, unemployment is an obstacle to economic growth.

- What is the significance of human resource?

**Ans.** Human resource is superior to other sources like physical capital because it can make use of other sources like land and physical capital. Human resource can develop other sources according to its skills and education because they could not develop on their own. A large population can be turned into a productive asset by proper investment in developing skills, emphasising on academic and vocational aspects of students, and making available opportunities accessible to large section of people like technological know how.

- What measures have been taken by the government to improve literacy in India?

**Ans.** "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is one of the most significant steps towards providing elementary education to all children in the age group of 6–14 years which is a time-bound initiative of the Central Government in cooperation with the States, the Local Government and the community for achieving the goal of universalisation of elementary education." Apart from it, bridge courses and back-to-school camps have been initiated in order to increase the enrolment in elementary education. Mid-day meal scheme was introduced to encourage the attendance and retention of children and improve their nutritional

status. These policies helped a lot to increase the literacy rate of India.

9. What are the two types of economic activities? State two characteristics of each.

**Ans.** Communication, trade, banking, transport, health, education, services, tourism, insurance, etc. are included in the tertiary sector and the activities in this sector result in the production of goods and services. These activities are called economic activities. Economic activities have two parts — market activities and non-market activities. Market activities involve remuneration to anyone who performs. These include production of goods or services, including government service. Non-market activities are the production for self-consumption. These can be consumption and processing of primary product and own account production of fixed assets.

### Long Answer Type Questions

10. 'Investment in human capital is of paramount importance for a country and its growth'. Elucidate.

**Ans.** Investment in human capital yields a return just like investment in physical capital. It is clearly visible directly in the form of higher incomes earned because of higher productivity of the more educated or the persons better trained, as well as the higher productivity of healthier people. Not only the educated and healthier people gain through higher incomes, society also gains indirectly because the advantages of a more educated or a healthier population spreads to those also who themselves were not directly educated or given health care. A large population can be turned into a productive asset by investment in human capital.

11. Do you agree that education is the most important component of human resource development? Why?

**Ans.** Education plays an important role across the world in the overall development of any country, so it is considered the most important component of human resource development. Education is both a human right and a fundamental right in India, so it is the responsibility of the government to provide it. Another important thing is that education has influence on human development, economic growth and the fundamental requirement for democracy. Some countries prefer to invest in the weapons of mass destruction however; they should invest education for the overall development of the society. It is required that various programs should be introduced in order to teach the responsible use of resources,

because without proper knowledge the illiterate people will waste a lot of resources.

## Self-Assessment

### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which one of the following is a market activity?  
 (a) A teacher teaching her children  
 (b) A chef cooking in the hotel  
 (c) An artist painting his room  
 (d) A tailor stitching his son's trouser

**Ans.** (b) A chef cooking in the hotel

2. Infant mortality rate is the death of the child under the age of  
 (a) 1 year. (b) 3 years.  
 (c) 5 years. (d) 6 years.

**Ans.** (a) 1 year.

3. Consider the given table and answer the following question.

Number of Colleges and Years

Years	Number of Colleges
1950-51	750
1990-91	7,346
1998-99	11,089
2010-11	33,023
2012-13	37,204
2014-15	40,760
2015-16	41,435
2016-17	42,338
2017-18	41,012
2018-19	39,931
2019-20	44,374
2020-21	46,007

Which of the following is true according to the data given in the table?

- (a) The number of colleges operational in 2017-18 decreased from 2016-17.  
 (b) The number of colleges operational in 2020-21 decreased from 2019-20.  
 (c) The number of colleges operational in 1990-91 was more than those operational in 1950-51.  
 (d) The number of colleges operational in 2010-11 was more than those operational in 2014-15.

**Ans.** (a) The number of colleges operational in 2017-18 decreased from 2016-17.

4. There are multiple reasons behind women often earning less than men. Which of the following reasons is/are correct in this context? Choose the correct option.

- I. There are no well-paying jobs available for women.
- II. Women often receive less education and skill training than men.
- III. Women are not interested in finding better-paying jobs.
- IV. A host of historical and cultural factors have led to a gender-based division of labour, where women have been left with lower-paying jobs.

Options:

- (a) Statements I, II and III are correct.
- (b) Statements II and III are correct.
- (c) Statements II and IV are correct.
- (d) Statements I and IV are correct.

**Ans.** (c) Statements II and IV are correct.

**5.** What do you understand by 'People as a Resource'?

- (a) It is a way of referring to a country's non-working population.
- (b) It is a way of referring to a country's working population in terms of their productive skills.
- (c) It is a way of referring to a country's immigrant population that is looking for work.
- (d) It is a way of referring to a country's non-industrial workforce.

**Ans.** (b) It is a way of referring to a country's working population in terms of their productive skills.

**6.** The population of a country can be turned into productive human capital with investment in ..... and .....

- (a) skill; raw material; wealth.
- (b) capital; land; tools.
- (c) formal education; skill development; health care.
- (d) wealth; private enterprise; profits.

**Ans.** (c) formal education; skill development; health care.

**7.** Choose the right option to fill in the blank.

In the case of India, statistically, the unemployment rate is low. A large number of people with low income and productivity are counted as .....

- (a) skilled. (b) unemployed.
- (c) employed. (d) none of these.

**Ans.** (c) employed.

**8.** What is the characteristic common to both seasonal and disguised unemployment?

- (a) Both seasonal and disguised unemployment are witnessed in urban areas.
- (b) Both seasonal and disguised unemployment are witnessed in rural areas.

- (c) Both seasonal and disguised unemployment result in long durations of unemployment.
- (d) Both seasonal and disguised unemployment result in short durations of unemployment.

**Ans.** (b) Both seasonal and disguised unemployment are witnessed in rural areas.

**9.** How can investment in human capital help the working-age population of a country?

- (a) Investment in human capital does not offer any benefits to the working-age population.
- (b) Investment in human capital helps the working-age population to become more productive and earn higher wages.
- (c) Investment in human capital reduces the life expectancy of the working-age population.
- (d) Investment in human capital benefits only males in the working-age population.

**Ans.** (b) Investment in human capital helps the working-age population to become more productive and earn higher wages.

**10.** The employment structure is characterised by self-employment in the primary sector, especially agriculture. The whole family contributes to the field even though not everybody is really needed.

What does this phenomenon reveal about the state of unemployment in the primary sector?

- (a) Employment of more than necessary persons is indicative of seasonal unemployment.
- (b) Employment of more than necessary persons is indicative of disguised unemployment.
- (c) Persons engaged in the primary sector earn decent wages.
- (d) Persons engaged in the primary sector find it easier to work in the secondary sector.

**Ans.** (b) Employment of more than necessary persons is indicative of disguised unemployment.

**11.** Why do people engaged in agriculture find it difficult to find work due to seasonal changes?

- (a) The secondary sector does not hire farm workers in the lean season.
- (b) There is no farming activity in off-seasons and often there are not enough jobs in other sectors to absorb them.
- (c) Farm workers are reluctant to leave their homes to find work.
- (d) Farm workers have enough financial savings and they do not require work in off-seasons.

**Ans.** (b) There is no farming activity in off-seasons and often there are not enough jobs in other sectors to absorb them.



## Assertion-Reason Type Questions

For question numbers 12 to 15, two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

### Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

12. **Assertion (A):** Like other resources population also is a resource – a 'human resource'.

**Reason (R):** Investment in human capital yields a return just like investment in physical capital.

**Ans.** (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

13. **Assertion (A):** Human capital is in one way superior to other resources like land and physical capital.

**Reason (R):** Land and capital cannot become useful on its own.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

14. **Assertion (A):** The various activities have been classified into three main sectors.

**Reason (R):** The three main sectors are primary, secondary and tertiary.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

15. **Assertion (A):** The quality of population depends upon the literacy rate, health and skill formation acquired by the people.

**Reason (R):** Literate and healthy population are an asset.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

## Match the Following

16. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the given options:

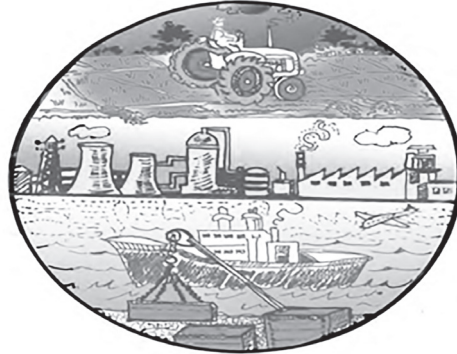
Column A (Years)	Column B (Number of Universities)
A. 1998-99	1. 238
B. 2012-13	2. 628
C. 1914-15	3. 711
D. 2020-21	4. 1074

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a) 1	2	3	4	
(b) 2	4	1	3	
(c) 4	1	3	2	
(d) 1	3	2	4	

**Ans.** (a) 1 2 3 4

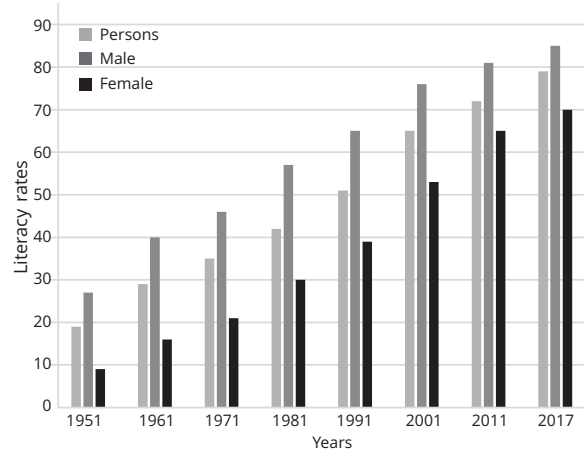
## Study the Pictures and Answer the Questions



17. Carefully observe the given picture. What does it represent (top to bottom)? Choose the correct option from the following.

- (a) Market and non-market activities
- (b) Primary, secondary, and tertiary sector activities
- (c) Agriculture, forestry, and mining
- (d) Micro, small, and medium enterprises

**Ans.** (b) Primary, secondary, and tertiary sector activities



Trends in Literacy Rates in Post-Independent India

18. Consider the image of bar graph given above. Which of the following can be inferred from it?
- (a) The literacy rates of men and women have consistently increased from 1951 to 1981.
  - (b) The literacy rates of men and women have consistently decreased from 1981 to 2011.
  - (c) The literacy rate for women was higher than that for men in 1971.

- (d) The literacy rate for men was lower than that for women in 1991.

**Ans.** (a) The literacy rates of men and women have consistently increased from 1951 to 1981.

### Find the Incorrect Option

19. (a) The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in the age group of 18 to 23 years is 27% in 2019–20.  
(b) There is also focus on distance education, convergence of formal, non-formal, distance and IT education institutions.  
(c) As per 2011 census, literacy rates varied from 94 per cent in Kerala to 62 per cent in Bihar.  
(d) A study showed that unemployment of graduate and post-graduate has increased faster than among matriculates.

**Ans.** (c) As per 2011 census, literacy rates varied from 94 per cent in Kerala to 62 per cent in Bihar.

### Correct and Rewrite the Following Statement

20. Infant mortality rate (IMR) has come down from 167 in 1951 to 28 in 2020.

**Ans.** Infant mortality rate (IMR) has come down from 147 in 1951 to 28 in 2020.

### Fill in the Blanks

21. The number of deaths per thousand persons in a year is called death rate.  
22. More than required workers are employed on a single piece of work is called disguised unemployment.  
23. Seasonal unemployment is most prevalent in rural areas.

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

24. What do you mean by 'people as a resource'?

**Ans.** People as a resource means people are an asset rather than a liability, i.e. the working population of a country.

25. How is education helpful in human capital formation?

**Ans.** Education contributes to the growth of the society. It enhances national income, cultural richness and increases the efficiency of governance.

26. Why was mid-day meal scheme launched/implemented?

**Ans.** Mid-day meal scheme has been implemented to encourage attendance and retention of children.

### Short Answer Type Questions

27. Describe the role of health in human capital formation.

**Ans.** Health of the population and national output are directly related. That is to say that improvement

in the health of the population raises the output of a country. Successive governments have paid heed to this and as a result improvement in the health of the population has been a priority. The National Health Policy also aims to provide accessible healthcare facilities, family welfare programmes and nutritional services, especially to the underprivileged section of the society. As a result, life expectancy at birth has increased to over 68.3 years (2014 data) and infant mortality rate (IMR) has decreased.

28. Write short notes on (a) seasonal unemployment (b) disguised unemployment.

**Ans.** (a) **Seasonal unemployment:** Seasonal unemployment occurs when there is no work for some months of the year. Agricultural labourers have work in the months when sowing, harvesting, reaping and threshing is done. In other months there is not much work for them.

- (b) **Disguised unemployment:** Disguised unemployment is a unique feature of Indian agriculture. In this case people appear to be employed; more people are engaged in an agricultural activity than required. If the extra workers are removed from the activity, the productivity will not decline. For example, an agricultural activity requires five people but engages eight people. If any three people are removed, the remaining five people can complete the activity within the stipulated time. So, these three people are disguised unemployed.

29. Suggest any three ways to transform population load into an asset.

**Ans.** The country's working population, or human resource, can be either a nation's asset or a liability. People become a liability when a nation has to provide them food, education and healthcare. On the other hand, when the ability of the people to produce goods and services is taken into account, they are considered as assets. This can be done by investing in people through education, training and proper health care facilities. Investing in human resource can give high rates of return in future. Investing on people is the same as investing in land and capital.

30. 'The nature of unemployment differs in rural and urban areas.' Justify the statement.

**Ans.** In India we have unemployment in rural and urban areas. In case of rural areas, there is seasonal and disguised unemployment. Seasonal unemployment happens when people are not able to find jobs during some months of the year. People dependent upon agriculture usually

faces such kind of problem. There are certain busy seasons when sowing, harvesting, weeding and threshing is done. Certain months do not provide much work to the people dependent on agriculture. Urban areas have mostly educated unemployment.

31. Briefly describe market and non-market activities.

**Ans.** The activities performed with the incentive of wages or profits are referred to as market activities. An example of a market activity is the production of steel in a factory. Activities performed for self-consumption are referred to as non-market activities. An example of a non-market activity is the household chores performed by members of a family. There is no incentive for pay or profit here.

32. 'The health indicators of the Indian population have improved over the years.' Explain this statement.

**Ans.** There has been a marked improvement in the health indicators of Indians over the years. For example, life expectancy has improved to over 67.2 years in 2021, while the infant mortality rate has undergone a substantial decline from 147 in 1951 to 28 in 2020. Similarly, the crude birth rate and death rate have also declined to 20 and 6, respectively, in 2020. These improved indicators are a testament to the success of the healthcare initiatives launched over the years.

### Paragraph Based Questions

33. Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

#### Source A – Economic Activities by Men and Women

The various activities have been classified into three main sectors, i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary. Primary sector includes agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, poultry farming, mining and quarrying. Manufacturing is included in the secondary sector. Trade, transport, communication, banking, education, health, tourism, services, insurance, etc. are included in the tertiary sector.

(a) Which sector contributes the most in GDP of the country?

#### Source B – Unemployment

In case of India we have unemployment in rural and urban areas. However, the nature of unemployment differs in rural and urban areas. In case of rural areas, there is seasonal and disguised unemployment. Urban areas have mostly educated unemployment.

(b) Why there is seasonal unemployment in rural areas?

### Source C – Quality of Population

The quality of population depends upon the literacy rate, health of a person indicated by life expectancy and skill formation acquired by the people of the country. The quality of the population ultimately decides the growth rate of the country. Literate and healthy population are an asset.

(c) 'Literate and healthy population are an asset.' Evaluate this statement.

- Ans.** (a) Tertiary Sector contributes the most in the GDP of any country because it includes trade, transport, communication, banking, education, health, tourism, services, insurance, etc.
- (b) Seasonal unemployment is very common in rural areas because people who are dependent on agriculture works in the months when sowing, harvesting, reaping and threshing is done. They do not find work during other months of the year.
- (c) We know that literacy and good health plays a very important role in the growth of society. Only a literate and healthy person can increase the efficiency of governance and enhance the national income.

### Case Based Questions

34. Investment in human capital (through education, training, medical care) yields a return just like investment in physical capital. This can be seen directly in the form of higher incomes earned because of higher productivity of the more educated or the better trained persons, as well as the higher productivity of healthier people. Not only do the more educated and the healthier people gain through higher incomes, society also gains in other indirect ways because the advantages of a more educated or a healthier population also spreads to those who themselves were not directly educated or given health care. In fact, human capital is in one way superior to other resources like land and physical capital: human resource can make use of land and capital. Land and capital cannot become useful on its own. For many decades in India, a large population has been considered a liability rather than an asset. But a large population need not be a burden for the economy. It can be turned into a productive asset by investment in human capital (for example, by spending resources on education and health for all, training of industrial and agricultural workers in the use of modern technology, useful scientific researches and so on).

34.1 How does investment in human capital benefit individuals and society?

**Ans.** Investment in human capital, through education, training, and healthcare, leads to higher incomes and productivity for individuals. Society benefits indirectly as the advantages of a more educated or healthier population spread to others.

**34.2** How does human capital compare to physical capital and land in terms of utility?

**Ans.** Human capital is superior to physical capital and land because it can utilise and enhance the productivity of land and capital, whereas land and physical capital cannot be productive on their own.

**34.3** What approach can transform a large population from a liability into an asset?

**Ans.** To turn a large population into a productive asset, investment in human capital is required. This includes expenditure on education, healthcare, and training to enhance productivity and economic growth.

**35.** Unemployment leads to wastage of manpower resource. People who are an asset for the economy turn into a liability. There is a feeling of hopelessness and despair among the youth. People do not have enough money to support their family. Inability of educated people who are willing to work to find gainful employment implies a great social waste. Unemployment tends to increase economic overload. The dependence of the unemployed on the working population increases. The quality of life of an individual as well as of society is adversely affected. When a family has to live on a bare subsistence level there is a general decline in its health status and rising withdrawal from the school system. Hence, unemployment has detrimental impact on the overall growth of an economy. Increase in unemployment is an indicator of a depressed economy. It also wastes the resource, which could have been gainfully employed. If people cannot be used as a resource they naturally appear as a liability to the economy. In case of India, statistically, the unemployment rate is low. A large number of people represented with low income and productivity are counted as employed. They appear to work throughout the year but in terms of their potential and income, it is not adequate for them. The work that they are pursuing seems forced upon them. They may, therefore, want other work of their choice. Poor people cannot afford to sit idle. They tend to engage in any activity irrespective of its earning potential. Their earning keeps them on a bare subsistence level.

**35.1** What are some of the consequences of unemployment on individuals and society?

**Ans.** Unemployment leads to a wastage of manpower

and economic resources, causes feelings of hopelessness, and reduces quality of life. It also increases the economic burden and reliance on the working population.

**35.2** How does unemployment impact the health and education of families?

**Ans.** Unemployment often results in families living at a subsistence level, leading to a decline in health and reduced school attendance among children. This adversely affects individual well-being and societal growth.

**35.3** Why might the unemployment rate in India appear low despite significant economic issues?

**Ans.** The unemployment rate in India may seem low because many low-income individuals are counted as employed. They work year-round but earn insufficiently, often forced into jobs that do not match their potential or preferences.

**36.** There were two friends, Vilas and Sakal, living in the same village, Semapur. Sakal was a twelve-year-old boy. His mother, Sheela, looked after domestic chores, while his father, Buta Chaudhary, worked in an agricultural field. Sakal helped his mother with domestic chores and took care of his younger brother, Jeetu, and sister, Seetu.

Sakal's uncle, Shyam, had passed the matriculation examination but was sitting idle at home due to a lack of employment. Despite this, Buta and Sheela were determined to educate Sakal. They insisted he join the village school, which he did. Sakal studied diligently and completed his higher secondary examination.

Encouraged by his father, Buta, who raised a loan, Sakal pursued a vocational course in computers. His interest and dedication in studies led him to complete the course with enthusiasm. Eventually, Sakal secured a job in a private firm, where he designed a new type of software that significantly boosted the firm's sales. His excellent performance earned him a promotion from his boss.

**36.1** Identify the key factors behind Sakal's success.

**Ans.** Sakal had immense support from his family. His parents played a vital role in Sakal's educational journey. He completed his higher secondary at their insistence. His father also raised a loan to fund Sakal's vocational course. Finally, Sakal was a motivated individual who worked hard to realise his goals.

**36.2** What does Sakal's story tell us about the importance of investing in human capital?

**Ans.** Sakal's story is a testament to the importance of investing in human capital. Investment in education, vocational courses, and other skill

development modules presents the opportunity for gainful employment. Jobs that require these special skills are better paid too. Consequently, there is a general rise in the standard of living of people.

**36.3** How can the government improve access to skill development for the rural population?

**Ans.** The government can initiate skill development courses for different sectors in rural areas. It should offer subsidised loans to avail of such courses. Further, it should provide employment support to those who complete such vocational courses.

**37.** Education and skill are the major determinants of the earnings of any individual in the market. A majority of women have meagre education and low-skill formation. Women are paid low compared to men. Most women work where job security is not there. Various activities relating to legal protection are meagre. Employment in this sector is characterised by irregular and low income.

In this sector, there is an absence of basic facilities like maternity leave, childcare, and other social security systems. However, women with high education and skill formation are paid at par with men. Among the organised sector, teaching and medicine attract them the most. Some women have entered administrative and other services, including jobs that need high levels of scientific and technological competence.

**37.1** Why do women find it difficult to find better-paying employment?

**Ans.** Due to historical and cultural factors, women are often discriminated against when it comes to education and skill development. Therefore, they end up working in sectors that offer meagre income and offer no job security. Their progress is further hindered by a lack of basic facilities like maternity leave and social security at the workplace.

**37.2** What are the major determinants of the earning potential of an individual?

**Ans.** Education and skill set are the major determinants of the earning potential of an individual. Higher education that includes professional courses increases the likelihood of an individual finding employment in the formal sector. These jobs offer higher pay and social security benefits.

**37.3** How can the government improve employment opportunities for women?

**Ans.** The government can start programmes dedicated to women's skill development. It can enact legislation that mandates organisations to provide workplace benefits like maternity leave and

social security to women across sectors. Skill development, workplace benefits, and fair wages will go a long way in improving employment opportunities for women.

**38.** The expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP rose from 0.64 per cent in 1951–52 to 3.1 per cent in 2019–20 and has remained stagnant around 3 per cent from past few years. The Budgetary Estimate as stated in the Budget Documents of Union State Governments, Reserve Bank of India, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP has declined to 2.8 per cent in 2020–21. The literacy rates have increased from 18 per cent in 1951 to 85 per cent in 2018. Literacy is not only a right, it is also needed if the citizens are to perform their duties and enjoy their rights properly. However, a vast difference is noticed across different sections of the population. Literacy among males is nearly 16.1 per cent higher than females and it is about 14.2 per cent higher in urban areas as compared to rural areas. As per 2011 census, literacy rates varied from 94 per cent in Kerala to 62 per cent in Bihar. The primary school system (I-V) has expanded to over 7,78,842 in 2019–20.

**38.1** Write in brief about the variation in literacy rate since 1951.

**Ans.** The literacy rates have increased from 18 per cent in 1951 to 85 per cent in 2018.

**38.2** What is the total expenditure on education according to the budgetary estimate?

**Ans.** The Budgetary Estimate as stated in the Budget Documents of Union State Governments, Reserve Bank of India, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP has declined to 2.8 per cent in 2020–21.

**38.3** Name the state that has the lowest literacy rate in India.

**Ans.** Bihar has the least literacy rate in India.

### Long Answer Type Questions

**39.** Which capital (should be factor of production, not capital) would you consider the best – land, labour, physical capital and human capital? Why?

**Ans.** Labour is the most abundant factor of production. It is the physical and mental effort put in by people during the process of production. Small farmers cultivate their own fields, whereas medium and large farmers use hired labour to work on their fields. Labour is provided by the landless families. For example, in Palampur, farm labourers come from those families who have no land or very small plots of land. They are paid wages which are in cash or in kind (crops). A minimum wage has been set by the government



(₹ 300 per day) but sometimes the farm labourers of Palampur get much less. This is because labour is abundant, so there is heavy competition for work. Therefore, some labourers migrate to the cities in search of work, to supplement their income.

**40.** Human resource is an indispensable factor of production. Justify.

**Ans.** If investments are made on the education and health of a child, he or she can yield a high return in future in the form of higher earnings and greater contribution to the society. Most of the educated parents invest more on the education of their child because they have realised the importance of education. In addition to this, they are also conscious of proper nutrition and hygiene. They accordingly look after their children's needs for education at school and good health. Countries, like Japan, have invested huge amount of funds in human resource. They do not possess any natural resources but these countries are developed. They import the required natural resources. Here an important question comes to our mind that how did they become developed? The answer to this question is that they have invested on people, especially in the field of education and health. These people have made efficient use of other resources, like land and capital. So it is true to say that human resource is an indispensable factor of production.

**41.** Why is the literacy rate lower among women?

**Ans.** Literacy rate is uneven between urban and rural areas and between men and women. Studies have shown that more men are literate as compared to women and that urban population is more literate as compared to rural. There are many reasons for low female literacy in India. Though the government has made elementary education free, still, parents do not want to send their girls to school. In most rural areas, schools are far away from villages and not easily accessible. Also, many schools do not have adequate basic facilities, like drinking water and lavatory. Another reason is the lack of female teachers in schools.

## ————— Let's Compete —————

### Multiple-Choice Questions

**1.** Which of the following is a significant step towards providing elementary education to all the children in the age group of 6–14 years?

- (a) Mid-day meal
- (b) Adult Education Programme
- (c) *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*
- (d) None of these

**Ans.** (c) *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*

**2.** Quality of population depends upon

- (a) health.
- (b) education.
- (c) skills.
- (d) all of these.

**Ans.** (d) all of these.

**3.** Which one of the following is not an activity of the primary sector?

- (a) Transport
- (b) Forestry
- (c) Mining
- (d) Animal Husbandry

**Ans.** (a) Transport

**4.** Which of the following does not affect the quality of population?

- (a) Literacy
- (b) Health
- (c) Skills
- (d) Income

**Ans.** (d) Income

**5.** Sameer, a farmer, has finished reaping a crop in a field. Now, he has to wait for some months before he starts working in another farm. What will you call this type of unemployment?

- (a) Rural unemployment
- (b) Economic unemployment
- (c) Seasonal unemployment
- (d) Disguised unemployment

**Ans.** (c) Seasonal unemployment

**6.** Which scheme has been introduced by the government to encourage attendance and improve nutritional status of students in schools?

- (a) Morning meal
- (b) Mid-day meal
- (c) Afternoon meal
- (d) Evening meal

**Ans.** (b) Mid-day meal

**7.** According to 2011 census, female sex ratio of India is

- (a) 921 females per thousand males.
- (b) 943 females per thousand males.
- (c) 940 females per thousand males.
- (d) 928 females per thousand males.

**Ans.** (b) 943 females per thousand males.

**8.** In which sector will you place agriculture, forestry and dairy?

- (a) Primary sector
- (b) Tertiary sector
- (c) Secondary sector
- (d) None of these

**Ans.** (a) Primary sector

**9.** PHC stands for

- (a) People's Health Club.
- (b) Preventive Health Club.
- (c) Primary Health Centre.
- (d) Physical Health Centre.

**Ans.** (c) Primary Health Centre.

**10.** Number of deaths for every 1000 people in a year in a particular area is called

- (a) death rate.
- (b) birth rate.
- (c) decrease rate.
- (d) population decrease.

**Ans.** (a) death rate.



## Life Skills

1. 'If health is lost everything is lost'. Keeping this statement in mind, list the importance of being healthy.

- Ans.**
- Health is a foundation of all happiness in life.
  - Health is indeed the real wealth because being healthy is the only state of physical, mental and social well-being.
  - Healthy human beings have more energy and confidence in life.
  - Good health keeps away from diseases.
2. Women are paid lesser wages than men in most

areas of work. Discuss the importance of breaking the glass ceiling and bringing women at par with men economically and socially.

- Ans.** This type of gender discrimination is commonly observed in India, both in the organised as well as unorganised sectors. Though both men and women perform same nature of duties, however, in many industries women are paid less in comparison to men. It is necessary to do away with this practice because it helps in developing the confidence among women. It also helps in making women economically more strong in comparison to men. It is necessary for the economic and social well being of women.

# Poverty as a Challenge

## Check Your Progress

### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which among the following is the method to estimate the poverty line?

- (a) Investment method (b) Income method  
(c) Capital method (d) Human method

**Ans.** (b) Income method

2. Which state has the highest poverty ratio in India?

- (a) Bihar (b) Odisha  
(c) Kerala (d) Punjab

**Ans.** (a) Bihar

3. SGSY stands for

- (a) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.  
(b) Swarozgar Gram Swarnajayanti Yojana.  
(c) Swadeshi Gram Swarozgar Yojana.  
(d) Swarna Gramin Swarozgar Yojana.

**Ans.** (a) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

4. Which important anti-poverty programme was launched in the year 2005?

**Ans.** Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee programme was launched in the year 2005.

5. Who are the most vulnerable to poverty among the social groups?

**Ans.** Social groups, which are most vulnerable to poverty, are Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households.

6. What was the objective of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)?

**Ans.** The objective of this scheme was to provide subsidised food to poor families.

### Short Answer Type Questions

7. What are the main causes of poverty in India?

**Ans.** The policies of the British Colonial government shattered the Indian economy so much so that it could not be revived until the 1980s. The failure to promote both necessary economic growth and population control measures has been the primary cause of poverty. Illiteracy is also an important cause of poverty in our country. The unequal distribution of land, lack of land resources and failure in the proper implementation of land reform policies have been the major causes of poverty in rural areas. Lack of job security and unemployment opportunities are other causes. Income inequality is one of the main features of increasing poverty. Money has been concentrated in fewer hands, thus rendering a majority of people poor. Despite the implementation of various employment generating programmes, it has failed to provide employment opportunities for all. In order to fulfil social obligations, the poor end up borrowing a lot of money which makes them deeper in debt.

8. Discuss any three measures to reduce poverty in India.

**Ans.** (i) **Rural Employment Generation Programme**

**(REGP):** This was started in 1995 to create self-employment opportunities in rural areas and small towns.

(ii) **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana**

**(SGSY):** It was started in 1999 to bring poor families above the poverty line by organising them into self-help groups and providing them bank credit and government subsidy.

(iii) **Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY):**

This scheme was started in 2000 to fulfil the basic requirements of the villages and to attain

a sustainable development. The main areas where assistance was provided were primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and rural electrification.

### Long Answer Type Questions

9. What is the strategy of the present government to alleviate poverty?

**Ans.** The target of the government has been to alleviate poverty and this can be done by

- (i) **Promoting economic growth:** Economic growth brings reduction in poverty. It creates job opportunities for the people of the country which puts more money in the hands of the people. This money can be used for better food, shelter, education, health care of the family of an individual which works towards reduction of poverty.

- (ii) Targeted poverty removal programmes:

**Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY):** This scheme was started in 1993 with the aim to create self-employment opportunities in rural areas and small towns, for the rural youth who were educated but unemployed.

**Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):** This yojana was launched in 2000 for the 'poorest of poor' and also for the elderly. The objective of this scheme was to provide subsidised food to poor families.

#### **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), 2005:**

The Act aims to provide 100 days of assured wage employment, in a financial year, to every household. The Act also helps in protecting the environment by addressing the cause of drought, deforestation and soil erosion. It also helps in empowering rural women and reducing urban-rural migration.

10. What is meant by poverty? What do you understand by global poverty scenario?

**Ans.** A person is considered poor if her or his income or consumption level falls below a given 'minimum level' necessary to fulfil basic needs. Poverty levels have declined globally. However, it is marked with great regional differences. China and the South-East Asian countries saw a substantial decline due to rapid economic growth and massive investments in human resources. Countries of South Asia have seen a massive decline in poverty. Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have seen a rise in poverty. In Latin America poverty has declined from 10 per cent in 2005 to 4 per cent in 2015. In some countries such as Russia, poverty has resurfaced. The United Nations proposes to end poverty of all types by 2030.

## Self-Assessment

### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Which of the following poverty alleviation programmes was launched in 1993?
- Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana
  - Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
  - National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)
  - Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

**Ans.** (a) Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana

2. Which organisation carries out surveys for determining the poverty line?

- Planning Commission
- Central Statistical Organisation
- National Sample Survey Organisation
- None of these

**Ans.** (c) National Sample Survey Organisation

3. Which state has succeeded in reducing poverty with the help of land reform measures?

- West Bengal
- Punjab
- Kerala
- Tamil Nadu

**Ans.** (a) West Bengal

4. Analyse the given table and answer the following question.

Estimates of poverty in India (Tendulkar Methodology)

Years	Poverty Ratio (%)		
	Rural	Urban	Total
1993-94	50	32	45
2004-05	42	26	37
2009-10	34	21	30
2011-12	26	14	22

In which year was the rural poverty ratio lower than the urban poverty rate?

- 2004-05
- 2009-10
- 2011-12
- None of these

**Ans.** (d) None of these

5. Which of the following conditions is a sign of poverty? Choose the correct option accordingly.

- Not able to afford health care
- Lack of housing facilities
- Prevalence of hunger
- Unable to afford education

Options:

- Statements I, II and III are correct.
- Statements II and III are correct.
- Statements I, II, III and IV are correct.
- Statements I and IV are correct.

**Ans.** (c) Statements I, II, III and IV are correct.

6. Which of the following statements about social exclusion is correct?

- (a) Social exclusion is only a cause of poverty.
- (b) Social exclusion can be a cause as well as a consequence of poverty.
- (c) Social exclusion is only a consequence of poverty.
- (d) Social exclusion has no relation to poverty.

**Ans.** (b) Social exclusion can be a cause as well as a consequence of poverty.

7. A person is considered poor if her or his income or consumption level falls below a given '.....' necessary to fulfill the basic needs.

- (a) superficial level
- (b) maximum level
- (c) minimum level
- (d) None of these

**Ans.** (c) minimum level

8. Choose the right option to fill in the blanks.  
In India, the accepted average calorie intake is ..... per person/day in rural areas and ..... per person/day in urban areas.

- (a) 2100 calories; 2400 calories
- (b) 2000 calories; 2000 calories
- (c) 2400 calories; 2100 calories
- (d) 3400 calories; 2000 calories

**Ans.** (c) 2400 calories; 2100 calories

### Assertion-Reason Type Questions

For question numbers 9 to 12, two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

#### Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

9. **Assertion (A):** In India we see poverty all around us.

**Reason (R):** In fact, every fourth person in India is poor.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

10. **Assertion (A):** A common method used to measure poverty is based on the income or consumption levels.

**Reason (R):** A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given 'minimum level' necessary to fulfill the basic needs.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

11. **Assertion (A):** The calorie needs vary depending on age, sex and the type of work that a person does.

**Reason (R):** The accepted average calorie requirement in India is 3000 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2400 calories per person per day in urban areas.

**Ans.** (c) A is true but R is false.

12. **Assertion (A):** There is a substantial decline in poverty ratios in India from about 40 per cent in 1993-94 to 37.2 per cent in 2004-05.

**Reason (R):** The proportion of people below poverty line further came down to about 22 per cent in 2011-12.

**Ans.** (d) A is false but R is true.

### Match the Following

13. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Years)	Column B (Number of poor in millions)
A. 1993-94	1. 404
B. 2004-05	2. 407
C. 2009-10	3. 355
D. 2011-12	4. 270

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 1	2	3	4
(b) 2	4	1	3
(c) 4	1	3	2
(d) 1	3	2	4

**Ans.** (a) 1 2 3 4

### Find the Incorrect Option

- 14. (a) The proportion of people below poverty line is not same for all social groups and economic categories in India.
- (b) 24 per cent of casual workers in urban areas are below poverty line.
- (c) The average for people below poverty line for all groups in India is 22.
- (d) 29 per cent of Scheduled Castes are also poor.

**Ans.** (b) 24 per cent of casual workers in urban areas are below poverty line.

### Correct and Rewrite the Following Statement

15. Bihar and Odisha continue to be the two poorest states with poverty ratios of 30.7 and 29.6 per cent respectively.
- Ans.** Bihar and Odisha continue to be the two poorest states with poverty ratios of 33.7 and 32.6 per cent respectively.

### Fill in the Blanks

16. MNREGA was launched in the year **2005**.
17. World Bank uses a uniform standard for poverty line that is minimum availability of **\$1.90** per person a day.

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

18. What were the targets of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)?
- Ans.** It was started in 1999 to bring poor families above the poverty line by organising them into self-help groups and providing them bank credit and government subsidy.
19. Which important anti-poverty programme was launched in the year 2000?
- Ans.** Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) was launched in the year 2000.
20. Which indicators out of illiteracy level, lack of access to health care, inadequate safe drinking water and ample job opportunities are not social indicators of poverty?
- Ans.** Lack of access to health care is not the social indicator of poverty.

### Short Answer Type Questions

21. Why do different countries use different poverty lines?
- Ans.** Poverty line is different for different countries depending on the country's existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms. In India, for determining the poverty line, the minimum price for subsistence is determined. A minimum level of food requirement, clothing, shelter, fuel and light, educational and medical requirement, etc. are determined to calculate the subsistence price. Based on this, the poverty line is determined. Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms. For example, a person not having a car in USA may be considered poor. In India, owning a car is still a matter of luxury.
22. How are China and South-East Asian countries able to control poverty?
- Ans.** Poverty levels have declined globally. However, it is marked with great regional differences.

China and the South-East Asian countries saw a substantial decline due to rapid economic growth and massive investments in human resources. Countries of South Asia have seen a massive decline in poverty.

23. 'The proportion of poor people is not the same in every state.' Justify the statement.
- Ans.** It is true to say that, the proportion of poor people is not the same in every state in India. Recent estimates show while the all India Head Count Ratio (HCR) was 21.9 per cent in 2011-12 states like Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha had above all India poverty level. Bihar and Odisha continue to be the two poorest states with poverty ratios of 33.7 and 32.6 per cent respectively. Along with rural poverty, urban poverty is also high in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. However, there is a decline in poverty in Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal. States like Punjab and Haryana have succeeded in reducing poverty with the help of high agricultural growth rates.

### Paragraph Based Questions

24. Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

#### Source A – Global Poverty Scenario

The proportion of people in developing countries living in extreme economic poverty – defined by the World Bank as living on less than \$2.15 per day – has fallen from 16.27 per cent in 2010 to 9.05 per cent in 2019. Although there has been a substantial reduction in global poverty, it is marked with great regional differences. Poverty declined substantially in China and Southeast Asian countries as a result of rapid economic growth and massive investments in human resource development.

- (a) What is the definition of extreme economic poverty according to the World Bank?

#### Source B – Global Poverty Scenario

Number of poor in China has come down from 2.1 per cent in 2014 to 1.2 per cent in 2015 to 0.1 per cent in 2020. In the countries of South Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Maldives) the decline has also been rapid 12.8 per cent in 2017 to 10.9 per cent in 2021. With decline in the percentage of the poor, the number of poor has also declined significantly from 233 million in 2017 to 207 million in 2021.

- (b) Write a brief note on the change in poverty trends in Asian countries.

### Source C – Poverty in India

One of the biggest challenges of independent India has been to bring millions of its people out of abject poverty. Mahatma Gandhi always insisted that India would be truly independent only when the poorest of its people become free of human suffering.

- (c) What are the main causes of poverty in India? Think and write.

- Ans.** (a) The proportion of people in developing countries living in extreme economic poverty – defined by the World Bank as living on less than \$2.15 per day.
- (b) In the countries of South Asia the decline has also been rapid 12.8 per cent in 2017 to 10.9 per cent in 2021. With decline in the percentage of the poor, the number of poor has also declined significantly from 233 million in 2017 to 207 million in 2021.
- (c) Several significant factors contributing to poverty in India include corruption, an increasing population, inadequate agricultural practices, the substantial disparity between the wealthy and the impoverished, traditional customs, illiteracy, unemployment, among others.

### Case Based Questions

25. At the centre of the discussion on poverty is usually the concept of the “poverty line”. A common method used to measure poverty is based on the income or consumption levels. A person is considered poor if his or her income or consumption level falls below a given “minimum level” necessary to fulfil the basic needs. What is necessary to satisfy the basic needs is different at different times and in different countries. Therefore, poverty line may vary with time and place. Each country uses an imaginary line that is considered appropriate for its existing level of development and its accepted minimum social norms. For example, a person not having a car in the United States may be considered poor. In India, owning of a car is still considered a luxury. 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 prices in rupees. The present formula for food requirement while estimating the poverty line is based on the desired calorie requirement. Food items, such as cereals, pulses, vegetable, milk,

oil, sugar, etc., together provide these needed calories. The calorie needs vary depending on age, sex and the type of work that a person does. 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. Since people living in rural areas engage themselves in more physical work, calorie requirements in rural areas are considered to be higher than in urban areas. The monetary expenditure per capita needed for buying these calorie requirements in terms of food grains, etc., is revised periodically taking into consideration the rise in prices.

- 25.1 What are the basic determinants for calculating poverty?
- Ans.** The basic determinants for calculating poverty are food, housing, clothing, healthcare, and education. These services can only be availed with an income. Therefore, income or consumption levels are a reliable measure for estimating poverty.
- 25.2 How can the understanding of poverty differ in different countries?
- Ans.** Different countries are at different levels of social and economic development. Therefore, the norms for an acceptable standard of living may vary in different countries. For example – car ownership may be considered a necessity in the United States but in India, it is still considered a luxury.
- 25.3 Why do calorie requirements differ for rural and urban areas in India?
- Ans.** People living in rural areas engage themselves in more physical work. Therefore, calorie requirements in rural areas are considered to be higher than in urban areas. The accepted average calorie requirement is 2400 calories per person/day in rural areas and 2100 calories per person/day in urban areas.
26. Vulnerability to poverty is a measure, which describes the greater probability of certain communities (say, members of a backward caste) or individuals (such as a widow or a physically handicapped person) of becoming, or remaining, poor in the coming years. Vulnerability is determined by the options available to different communities for finding an alternative living in terms of assets, education, health and job opportunities. Further, it is analysed on the basis of the greater risks these groups face at the time of natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunami), terrorism, etc. Additional analysis is made of their social and economic ability to handle these risks. In fact, vulnerability describes the greater probability of being more adversely affected than



other people when bad time comes for everybody, whether a flood or an earthquake or simply a fall in the availability of jobs.

**26.1** What do you understand by “vulnerability to poverty”?

**Ans.** Vulnerability to poverty signifies the greater probability of particular sections of society (people from backward castes or disabled) becoming or remaining poor in the coming years.

**26.2** How is vulnerability to poverty determined?

**Ans.** Vulnerability to poverty is determined by the options available to different communities for finding an alternative living in terms of assets, education, health, and job opportunities. Further, it is analysed based on the greater risks these groups face at the time of natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters), terrorism, etc.

**26.3** Why are particular sections of society more vulnerable to poverty than others?

**Ans.** Particular sections of society, like the SCs, STs, or physically challenged, are more vulnerable to poverty because they face a unique set of challenges. SCs and STs face social exclusion, which further worsens their poverty. Similarly, the physically challenged have fewer opportunities to find gainful employment and live a decent life.

**27.** Thirty-three-year-old Ram Saran migrated from his village to a town. He works as a daily-wage labourer in a wheat flour mill near Ranchi in Jharkhand. He manages to earn around ₹ 1,500 a month when he finds employment, which is not often. The money is not enough to sustain his family of six, which includes his wife and four children aged between 12 years and six months. He also has to send money to his aging parents, who live in a village near Ramgarh. His father, a landless labourer, depends on Ram Saran and his brother, who lives in Hazaribagh, for sustenance. Ram Saran lives in a one-room rented house in a crowded *basti* on the outskirts of the city. It's a temporary shack built of bricks and clay tiles. His wife, Santa Devi, works part-time as a maid in a few houses and earns another ₹ 800. They manage a meagre meal of dal and rice twice a day, but there's never enough for all of them. His elder son works as a helper in a tea shop to supplement the family income, earning an additional ₹ 300, while his 10-year-old daughter takes care of the younger siblings. None of the children attend school. They have only two pairs of hand-me-down clothes each, and new ones are bought only when the old clothes become unwearable. Shoes are a luxury, and the younger

kids are undernourished. They have no access to healthcare when they fall ill.

**27.1** What are the main causes behind Ram Saran's poverty?

**Ans.** Ram Saran and his family face multiple challenges that are responsible for their poverty. The biggest cause is the absence of a regular source of income. His wages are not enough for the survival of his family of six. Inadequate housing and lack of healthcare further worsen their standard of living.

**27.2** Why do people like Ram Saran migrate from villages to cities?

**Ans.** The villages in India are primarily agriculture-dependent. The income from agriculture is meagre and people, like Ram Saran, migrate from villages to cities in the hope of better employment opportunities, education, and healthcare.

**27.3** What does the condition of Ram Saran and his family tell us about the state of poverty in urban areas?

**Ans.** The condition of Ram Saran and his family reveals that urban poverty can severely impact the standard of living. Ram Saran's family faces acute poverty because of irregular income. The lack of proper housing, education, and healthcare for Ram Saran's family reveals that urban centres are unable to generate quality jobs to absorb the excess workforce from agriculture.

**28.** According to the concept of social exclusion, poverty must be seen in terms of the poor having to live only in a poor surrounding with other poor people, excluded from enjoying social equality of better-off people in better surroundings. Social exclusion can be both a cause as well as a consequence of poverty in the usual sense. Broadly, it is a process through which individuals or groups are excluded from facilities, benefits, and opportunities that others (their “betters”) enjoy. A typical example is the working of the caste system in India in which people belonging to certain castes are excluded from equal opportunities. Social exclusion thus may lead to, but can cause more damage than, having a very low income.

**28.1** How does social exclusion worsen the problem of poverty?

**Ans.** Social Exclusion in combination with low incomes can worsen the poverty of a social group. These social groups, already suffering due to low incomes, are further subject to denial of opportunities due to their affiliation with a caste or class.

**28.2** Give an example of social exclusion in the Indian context.

**Ans.** The working of the caste system in India is an example of social exclusion. Particular social groups, like SCs and STs, suffer from the highest level of poverty due to low incomes and the added burden of social exclusion.

**28.3** How can the problem of social exclusion be remedied?

**Ans.** Education and awareness among the general people can lead to the eradication of social exclusion. Targeted government initiatives to improve the standard of living (employment, health, and education) of the vulnerable sections of society can empower them to lead dignified and prosperous lives.

**29.** Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 aims to provide 100 days of wage employment to every household to ensure livelihood security in rural areas. It also aimed at sustainable development to address the cause of draught, deforestation and soil erosion. One-third of the proposed jobs have been reserved for women. The scheme provided employment to 220 crore person days of employment to 4.78 crore households. The share of SC, ST, Women person days in the scheme are 23 per cent, 17 per cent and 53 per cent respectively. The average wage has increased from 65 in 2006–07 to 132 in 2013–14. Recently, in March 2018, the wage rate for unskilled manual workers has been revised, state wise, the range of wage rate for different states and union territories lies in between ₹ 281 per day (for the workers in Haryana) to ₹ 168 per day (for the workers of Bihar and Jharkhand).

**29.1** What is the main aim of MGNREGA?

**Ans.** The main aim of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 is:

- to provide 100 days of wage employment to every household in rural areas.
- at sustainable development to address the cause of drought, deforestation and soil erosion.

**29.2** Write a brief note on the provisions for the women in MGNREGA.

**Ans.** In Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 one-third of the proposed jobs have been reserved for women. This scheme provided employment to 220 crore person days of employment to 4.78 crore households in which the share of Women person days is 53 per cent. The average wage has increased from 65 in 2006–07 to 132 in 2013–14.

**29.3** What is the revised wage rate of Haryana and Bihar?

**Ans.** The revised wage rate for the workers in Haryana is 281 rupees per day and for the workers in Bihar is 168 rupees per day.

### Long Answer Type Question

**30.** Write in detail about the inter-state disparities of poverty in India.

**Ans.** The proportion of poor people is not the same in each state. The poverty ratio is less than the national average in 20 states and Union Territories with Odisha and Bihar being the poorest states of India with poverty ratios of 32.6 per cent and 33.7 per cent respectively. Urban poverty is also high in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Kerala has the least poverty ratio at about 7.1 per cent. There has been a significant decline in poverty in Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Punjab and Haryana. These states have traditionally succeeded in reducing poverty. Kerala has focused on human resource development. In Punjab, high agricultural growth has helped in reducing poverty. West Bengal has succeeded in reducing poverty with the help of land reform measures.

## Let's Compete

### Multiple-Choice Questions

**1.** High agricultural growth has helped which of the following regions reduce poverty?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir      (b) West Bengal  
(c) Punjab      (d) Gujarat

**Ans.** (c) Punjab

**2.** What is the main cause of poverty in India?

- (a) High income inequalities  
(b) Less job opportunities  
(c) High growth in population  
(d) All of these

**Ans.** (d) All of these

**3.** NSSO stands for

- (a) National Sample Survey Organisation.  
(b) National Survey Sample Organisation.  
(c) National Statistical Survey Organisation.  
(d) National Survey System Organisation.

**Ans.** (a) National Sample Survey Organisation.

**4.** When was Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act passed?

- (a) 2005      (b) 2004  
(c) 2009      (d) None of these

**Ans.** (a) 2005

5. Which state has focused more on human resource development?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

**Ans.** (b) Kerala

6. The nutritional level of food is expressed in the form of

- (a) daily calories.
- (b) rice consumption per day.
- (c) wheat consumption.
- (d) none of these.

**Ans.** (a) daily calories.

7. REGP stands for

- (a) Rural Employees Generator Programme.
- (b) Regional Employment Generation Programme.
- (c) Rural Employment Generation Programme.
- (d) Rural Employment Generation Provision.

**Ans.** (c) Rural Employment Generation Programme.

8. What is the poverty ratio in the state of Bihar?

- (a) 33.7 per cent
- (b) 32.6 per cent
- (c) 31.8 per cent
- (d) 33.5 per cent

**Ans.** (a) 33.7 per cent

9. Which programme is launched to fulfill the basic requirements of the villages and to attain a sustainable development?

- (a) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
- (b) Rural Employment Generation Programme
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana
- (d) Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana

**Ans.** (c) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana

10. Which factor is responsible for poverty in India?

- (a) Illiteracy
- (b) Unemployment
- (c) Size of family
- (d) All of these

**Ans.** (d) All of these

## ———— Life Skills ————

1. Do we help or spoil beggars by offering money? Think and answer.

**Ans.** In practical terms, we spoil the beggars by offering them money. As they are able to earn money without any labour. It is easy money for them. There are many beggars who earn more than a daily wage labourer without making any effort whereas a labourer is able to earn only around ₹ 250–300 per day after a full day of hard labour. We should never offer money to anyone who comes and ask for money without any labour, and also stop anyone who offers them money.

2. You see children working in a restaurant. What are your thoughts? What do you think should be done for them?

**Ans.** The problem of child labour is very common in India and other developing nations. I feel sorry for the condition of these children working in a restaurant as they are forced to work for long hours without any rest and they are also malnourished as they are not given proper food. If we find any child below the age of 14 years working in a restaurant, then we should lodge a complaint to the competent authorities and ensure the rehabilitation of that child.

# Food Security in India

## Check Your Progress

### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What is the price announced before the sowing season called?

- (a) Issue Price
- (b) Market Price
- (c) Fair Price
- (d) Minimum Support Price

**Ans.** (d) Minimum Support Price

2. Which one of the following has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in Maharashtra?

- (a) Amul
- (b) Mother Dairy
- (c) Academy of Development Science
- (d) Central Government

**Ans.** (c) Academy of Development Science

3. Which cooperative provides milk, vegetable and pulses at controlled rates decided by the Delhi Government?

- (a) Amul
- (b) Kendriya Bhandar
- (c) Mother Dairy
- (d) All of these

**Ans.** (c) Mother Dairy

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

4. Define seasonal hunger.

**Ans.** Seasonal hunger occurs in rural areas and is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting. In urban areas, seasonal hunger is associated with casual labourers, who have less work during the rainy season.

5. Define chronic hunger.

**Ans.** Poor people suffer from chronic hunger because their low income does not allow them to buy food.

6. In which year the most devastating famine in Bengal occurred?

**Ans.** The most devastating famine in Bengal occurred in the year 1943.

7. Which two states witnessed high growth of food grains?

**Ans.** Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh witnessed high growth of food grains.

### Short Answer Type Questions

8. Why is food security essential in India?

**Ans.** In India a large section of people suffers from food insecurity. In rural areas, the landless and small farmers, traditional artisans, providers of traditional services, self-employed workers and destitute including beggars are the most food insecure. In urban areas, people employed in low income professions are prone to food insecurity. Children under the age of five years, people living in the economically backward regions and in areas prone to natural disasters are subjected to food insecurity. Therefore, food security is a must in this country.

9. Why is self-sufficiency in food grains production important?

**Ans.** Since 1947, the Indian government has understood the importance of attaining self-sufficiency in food grains after we experienced an acute shortage of food post partition. It is important to focus on self-sufficiency due to the following reasons:

- to provide for enough food to feed the increasing population.
- to ensure food security even when affected with natural calamities such as droughts, floods, cyclones, etc.
- to reduce dependence on import of food grains.
- to control prices of food grains so that it is affordable to all sections of society.

10. Explain how India is becoming self-sufficient in food grains.

**Ans.** In India, land under cultivation is fixed. Hence, it is not true that food grains output has increased due to an increase in land area under cultivation. Food grains output in India has increased significantly because of the Green Revolution in the late 1960s. At this time, farmers in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh started using modern methods of farming like high yielding varieties of seeds, chemical fertilisers, modern implements, irrigation facilities, insecticides and pesticides. These methods enabled the farmers to increase the yield per hectare. They had enough surplus to sell in the market after meeting their needs.

11. What do you mean by the term 'availability' of food?

**Ans.** Availability of food means enough food should be available to feed the entire population of the country; food means here, food produced in the country, food imported from other countries and food which has been stored from previous years.

### Long Answer Type Questions

12. To remove food insecurity, hunger must be eliminated. Explain this statement.

**Ans.** Hunger is another aspect indicating food insecurity. Providing food security means eliminating hunger, both current and future. Hunger can be chronic and seasonal. Poor people suffer from chronic hunger because their low income does not allow them to buy food. Seasonal hunger occurs in rural areas and is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting. In urban areas, seasonal hunger is associated with casual labourers. These labourers have less work during the rainy season.

13. Write a short note on the current status of the PDS.

**Ans.** In the beginning, when the system was introduced, the coverage was universal, that is, no discrimination was made between the poor and the non-poor. Over the years, there has been a change in the policy. It has been made more efficient and targeted. In 1992, Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was introduced with the target to provide the benefits of PDS to backward areas. In June 1997, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced, which targeted the poor in all areas. In 2000, two special schemes were launched. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme (APS) targeted the poorest of the poor and the indigent senior citizens, respectively. The AAY scheme was launched in December 2000. Under this scheme

one crore poorest of the poor families were identified and covered under the TPDS. About 25 kg of food grains were made available to each eligible family at subsidised rates of ₹ 2 per kg for rice and ₹ 3 per kg for wheat. In 2002, the quantity was raised to 35 kg. Till 2004, about 2 crore families had been covered under the scheme.

## Self-Assessment

### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Who released a special stamp titled 'Wheat Revolution' in July 1968?

- (a) Sardar Vallabhai Patel (b) Indira Gandhi  
(c) Jawahar Lal Nehru (d) Mahatma Gandhi

**Ans.** (b) Indira Gandhi

2. Buffer stock is the stock of food grains procured by the government through

- (a) IDBI. (b) FCI.  
(c) IFCI. (d) FICCI.

**Ans.** (b) FCI.

3. What does FCI stand for?

- (a) Fossil Corporation of India  
(b) Foreign Cooperation of India  
(c) Food Corporation of India  
(d) Food Coming to India

**Ans.** (c) Food Corporation of India

4. Analyse the given table and answer the following question.

Percentage of households with 'Hunger' in India

Years	Types of Hunger		
	Seasonal	Chronic	Total
<b>Rural</b>			
1983	16.2	2.3	18.5
1993-94	4.2	0.9	5.1
1999-2000	2.6	0.7	3.3
<b>Urban</b>			
1983	5.6	0.8	6.4
1993-94	1.1	0.5	1.6
1999-2000	0.6	0.3	0.9

Which of the following statements is true?

- (a) There was an increase in chronic hunger in rural areas between 1993-94 and 1999-2000.  
(b) The seasonal hunger for urban households remained unchanged between 1983 and 1993-94.  
(c) The chronic hunger for urban households



remained unchanged between 1983 and 1993–94.

- (d) There was a decline in seasonal hunger in rural areas between 1983 and 1993–94.

**Ans.** (d) There was a decline in seasonal hunger in rural areas between 1983 and 1993–94.

5. Which of the following represents different dimensions of food security? Choose the correct option accordingly.

- I. Availability of food
- II. Accessibility of food
- III. Affordability of food
- IV. Variety of food

Options:

- (a) Statements I, II and III are correct.
- (b) Statements II and IV are correct.
- (c) Statements I, III and IV are correct.
- (d) Statements I and IV are correct.

**Ans.** (a) Statements I, II and III are correct.

6. Who among the following added the dimension of 'access to food' to food security?

- (a) Norman Borlaug
- (b) Amartya Sen
- (c) MS Swaminathan
- (d) Raj Krishna

**Ans.** (b) Amartya Sen

7. Choose the right option to fill in the blank.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is a surplus production at the .....

- (a) Maximum Support Price.
- (b) Retail Price.
- (c) Minimum Support Price.
- (d) Wholesale Price.

**Ans.** (a) Maximum Support Price.

8. Which of the following is/are food security programme/s?

- (a) Public Distribution System (PDS)
- (b) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- (c) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)
- (d) All of these

**Ans.** (d) All of these

9. The poorest section of the society might be food insecure most of the times while persons above the poverty line might also be food insecure when the country faces a national disaster/calamity like earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami, widespread failure of crops causing famine, etc.

How is food security affected during a natural calamity?

- (a) During a natural calamity, food production rises, which leads to a fall in prices making it affordable for some people.
- (b) During a natural calamity, food production falls, which leads to a rise in prices making it unaffordable for some people.
- (c) Food security is not affected at all during natural calamities.
- (d) During a natural calamity, food production first rises and then falls gradually causing price fluctuations.

**Ans.** (b) During a natural calamity, food production falls, which leads to a rise in prices making it unaffordable for some people.

### Assertion-Reason Type Questions

For question numbers 10 to 14, two statements are given as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option.

Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) A is false but R is true.

10. **Assertion (A):** Food is as essential for living as air is for breathing.

**Reason (R):** Food security means something more than getting two square meals.

**Ans.** (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

11. **Assertion (A):** The most devastating famine that occurred in India was the famine of Bengal in 1939.

**Reason (R):** This famine killed thirty lakh people in the province of Bengal.

**Ans.** (d) A is false but R is true.

12. **Assertion (A):** The social composition along with the inability to buy food also plays a role in food insecurity.

**Reason (R):** The SCs, STs and some sections of the OBCs who have either poor land-base or very low land productivity are prone to food insecurity.

**Ans.** (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

13. **Assertion (A):** India has become self-sufficient in food grains during the last 30 years because of a variety of crops grown all over the country.

**Reason (R):** Since the advent of the Green Revolution in the early-1980s, the country has avoided famine even during adverse weather conditions.

**Ans.** (c) A is true but R is false.



14. **Assertion (A):** National Food Security Act provides food and nutritional security to people by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices.

**Reason (R):** Under this Act, 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population is eligible for subsidised food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

**Ans.** (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

### Match the Following

15. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Years)	Column B (Production of Rice in Bengal in Lakh tonnes)
A. 1938	1. 79
B. 1939	2. 85
C. 1942	3. 76
D. 1943	4. 93

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 1	2	3	4
(b) 2	1	4	3
(c) 4	1	3	2
(d) 1	3	2	4

**Ans.** (b) 2 1 4 3

16. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B. Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

Column A (Schemes)	Column B Year of Introduction
A. RPDS	1. 2000
B. AAY	2. 2013
C. APS	3. 2002
D. NFSA	4. 1992

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 1	2	3	4
(b) 4	3	2	1
(c) 4	3	1	2
(d) 2	1	3	4

**Ans.** (c) 4 3 1 2

### Study the Pictures and Answer the Questions

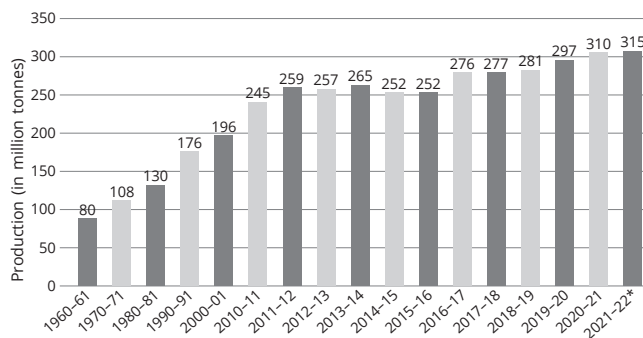


17. Analyse the given picture of a family leaving its village in Chittagong district of Bengal during Bengal famine of 1943 and answer the following question.

Why do people choose to leave their homes during famines?

- Due to abundance of food and employment
- Due to lack of food and employment
- The authorities ask people to leave
- None of the above

**Ans.** (b) Due to lack of food and employment



Production of food grains in India (million tonnes)

18. Consider the given image of bar graph. Analyse it and answer the following question.

In which year the production of food grain was less compared to the previous year?

- 2021-22
- 2020-21
- 2019-20
- 2014-15

**Ans.** (d) 2014-15

### Find the Incorrect Option

- The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops. This price is called Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- The MSP is declared by the Reserve Bank of India every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to farmers for raising the production of these crops.

- (c) There are about 5.5 lakh ration shops all over the country.
- (d) The introduction of rationing in India dates back to the 1940s against the backdrop of the Bengal famine.

**Ans.** (b) The MSP is declared by the Reserve Bank of India every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to farmers for raising the production of these crops.

### Correct and Rewrite the Following Statement

**20.** Indira Gandhi officially recorded the impressive strides of Green Revolution in agriculture by releasing a special stamp entitled 'Wheat Revolution' in July 1978.

**Ans.** Indira Gandhi officially recorded the impressive strides of Green Revolution in agriculture by releasing a special stamp entitled 'Wheat Revolution' in July 1968.

### Fill in the Blanks

- 21.** India has become self-sufficient in food grains because of Green Revolution.
- 22.** Distribution of food grains among poorer strata of society at lower price than market price is called as issue price.

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

**23.** In which decade was the rationing system revived in India?

**Ans.** In the 1960s, the rationing system was revived in the wake of acute food shortage just before the Green Revolution.

**24.** What was the total food grain production in 2020–21?

**Ans.** The total food grain production in 2020–21 was 310 million tonnes.

### Short Answer Type Questions

**25.** What are the essential components of the food security system in India?

**Ans.** The essential components of the food security system in India are (i) buffer stock, and (ii) public distribution system.

**26.** Why there is a need for self-sufficiency in food grains in India?

**Ans.** There is a need for self-sufficiency in food grains in India to ensure food security even when affected with natural calamities such as droughts, floods, cyclones, etc.

**27.** What was the 1995 World Food Summit declaration?

**Ans.** The 1995 World Food Summit declared, 'Food security at the individual, household, regional,

national and global levels exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'.

**28.** List the food intervention programmes initiated in the wake of the NSSO report.

**Ans.** The food intervention programmes initiated in the wake of the NSSO report are Public Distribution System for food grains, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), launched in 1975 and Food-for-work programme, introduced in 1977–78.

**29.** 'India is aiming at self-sufficiency in food grains since Independence.' Justify the statement.

**Ans.** The policy makers of India adopted all measures to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains. They advocated in favour of adopting new strategy in agriculture, which resulted in 'Green Revolution', especially in the production of wheat and rice. Use of fertilizers and better irrigation facilities led to the increase in production. The increase in food grains was, however, disproportionate. The highest rate of growth was achieved in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, which were 44.01 and 30.21 million tonnes in 2015–16. The total food grain production was 252.22 million tonnes in 2015–16 and it has changed to 275.68 million tonnes in 2016–17.

### Paragraph Based Questions

**30.** Read the sources given below and answer the questions that follow:

#### Source A – What is Buffer stock?

Buffer Stock is the stock of food grains, namely wheat and rice, procured by the government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The FCI purchases wheat and rice from the farmers in states where there is surplus production. The farmers are paid a pre-announced price for their crops.

(a) Define Buffer Stock.

#### Source B – What is the Public Distribution System?

The food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops among the poorer section of the society. This is called the Public Distribution System (PDS). Ration shops are now present in most localities, villages, towns and cities. There are about 5.5 lakh ration shops all over the country. Ration shops also, known as Fair Price Shops, keep stock of food grains, sugar, and kerosene for cooking.

(b) What is the primary aim of ration shops?

### Source C – Role of Cooperatives in Food Security

The cooperatives 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.

(c) Name any one cooperative society that you know.

- Ans.** (a) Buffer stock is a stock which is purchased from the farmers in the states where there is surplus production. This stock is purchased by the government through the Food Corporation of India.
- (b) Ration shops are also called the fair price shops. The primary aim of setting up of ration shops is to provide food grains, sugar and kerosene oil for cooking at the subsidised rates to the people living Below Poverty Line (BPL). There are about 5.5 lakh ration shops across India.
- (c) Amul is a cooperative in milk and milk products from Gujarat.

### Case Based Questions

**31.** The poorest section of the society might be food insecure most of the times while persons above the poverty line might also be food insecure when the country faces a national disaster/ calamity like earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami, widespread failure of crops causing famine, etc. Due to a natural calamity, say drought, total production of food-grains decreases. It creates a shortage of food in the affected areas. Due to shortage of food, the prices goes up. At the high prices, some people cannot afford to buy food. If such calamity happens in a very wide spread area or is stretched over a longer time period, it may cause a situation of starvation. A massive starvation might take a turn of famine. A famine is characterised by wide spread deaths due to starvation and epidemics caused by forced use of contaminated water or decaying food and loss of body resistance due to weakening from starvation.

**31.1** Who is at risk of being food insecure during a natural calamity?

**Ans.** People below the poverty line become food insecure during a national disaster or calamity.

**31.2** How does a drought impact food-grains?

**Ans.** A drought decreases the production of food-grains due to water scarcity and adverse weather conditions.

**31.3** What threat do droughts pose to food grains?

**Ans.** Droughts threaten the affordability of food grains by reducing production and increasing prices. They

can lead to widespread hunger and even famine if prolonged.

**32.** Although a large section of people suffer from food and nutrition insecurity in India, the worst affected groups are landless people with little or no land to depend upon, traditional artisans, providers of traditional services, petty self-employed workers and destitute including beggars. In the urban areas, the food insecure families are those whose working members are generally employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labour market. These workers are largely engaged in seasonal activities and are paid very low wages that just ensure bare survival. The social composition along with the inability to buy food also plays a role in food insecurity. The SCs, STs and some sections of the OBCs (lower castes among them) who have either poor land-base or very low land productivity are prone to food insecurity. The people affected by natural disasters, who have to migrate to other areas in search of work, are also among the most food insecure people. A high incidence of malnutrition prevails among women. This is a matter of serious concern as it puts even the unborn baby at the risk of malnutrition. A large proportion of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under the age of 5 years constitute an important segment of the food insecure population.

**32.1** Who are often considered the providers of traditional services in India?

**Ans.** Weavers, blacksmiths, potters and tribal healers are considered the providers of traditional services in India.

**32.2** How are unborn babies put at risk of malnutrition?

**Ans.** Unborn babies are put at risk of malnutrition through malnourished mothers.

**32.3** Which groups are among the worst affected by food insecurity in India?

**Ans.** The worst affected groups in India include landless people with little or no land to depend upon, petty self-employed workers, and destitute including beggars. People affected by natural disasters who have to migrate in search of work are also among the most food insecure.

**33.** Ramu works as a casual labourer in agriculture in Raipur village. His eldest son, Somu, who is 10 years old, is employed as a *pali*, tending to the cattle of the village Sarpanch, Satpal Singh. Somu works year-round and earns ₹ 1,000 for his efforts. Ramu has three more sons and two daughters, but they are too young to work in the fields. His wife, Sunhari, works part-time as a house cleaner for the livestock, managing cow

dung. In return, she receives half a litre of milk, cooked food, and vegetables daily. During the busy agricultural season, she also works alongside Ramu in the fields, supplementing his income. Agriculture being a seasonal activity, Ramu finds work only during sowing, transplanting, and harvesting periods. For about four months, during plant consolidation and maturing, he is unemployed and seeks work in bricklaying or construction within the village. Despite his efforts, Ramu's income, whether in cash or kind, is barely enough to provide two meals a day for his family. During periods of unemployment, the family faces severe difficulties, often going without food. Milk and vegetables are rare in their meals, and Ramu remains food insecure for about four months each year due to the seasonal nature of his work and the low wages, which only ensure survival.

**33.1** How is Ramu's family vulnerable to seasonal hunger?

**Ans.** Ramu works as an agricultural labourer. He is often assisted by his wife in the fields. Since Ramu gets work only during agriculture season, he is often left without work in the off-season. In such circumstances, his family is unable to afford enough food, milk, and vegetables. This situation makes them vulnerable to seasonal hunger.

**33.2** If Ramu had his own land, would his condition be any different?

**Ans.** Yes, If Ramu had his own land, his condition would be much better. The produce from the land could meet his family's nutritional requirements. Also, any surplus could be sold in the market, and the income could be used to improve production methods or invested in education, housing, or healthcare.

**33.3** What initiatives the government can take to mitigate seasonal hunger?

**Ans.** Initiatives on food security can go a long way in ending seasonal hunger. Universalisation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) or providing food grains at subsidised rates to the vulnerable population can help to mitigate seasonal hunger.

**34.** Food insecurity is disproportionately high in certain regions of the country, particularly in economically backward states with high poverty rates, tribal and remote areas, and regions more prone to natural disasters. States such as Uttar Pradesh (especially the eastern and southeastern parts), Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, parts of Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra have the largest numbers of food insecure people.

Social composition also plays a significant role, with Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and some lower sections of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) being particularly vulnerable due to their poor land base or low land productivity. People affected by natural disasters, who are forced to migrate in search of work, are also highly food insecure. Malnutrition is especially prevalent among women, posing serious concerns as it endangers not only their health but also that of unborn children. Pregnant and nursing mothers, as well as children under the age of five, form a crucial segment of the food-insecure population.

**34.1** Which regions in India are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity?

**Ans.** The economically backward states with high poverty rates, tribal and remote areas, and regions prone to natural disasters are most vulnerable to food insecurity. States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha are some of the states that are more vulnerable to food insecurity.

**34.2** What is the relation between social composition and food insecurity?

**Ans.** Social composition and food insecurity are inherently related to each other. Disadvantaged sections of society like Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are more vulnerable to food insecurity due to their poor land base and low land productivity.

**34.3** What are some of the consequences of food insecurity?

**Ans.** Food insecurity can have far-reaching consequences. It leads to malnutrition and low resistance to diseases among the vulnerable population. A society suffering from food insecurity sees high rates of mortality among the vulnerable sections of the population (women and children, in particular).

**35.** The introduction of Rationing in India dates back to the 1940s against the backdrop of the Bengal famine. The rationing system was revived in the wake of an acute food shortage during the 1960s, prior to the Green Revolution. In the wake of the high incidence of poverty levels, as reported by the NSSO in the mid-1970s, three important food intervention programmes were introduced: Public Distribution System (PDS) for food grains (in existence earlier but strengthened thereafter); Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (introduced in 1975 on an experimental basis) and Food-for-Work (FFW) (introduced in 1977-78).

Over the years, several new programmes have been launched and some have been restructured with the growing experience of administering the programmes. At present, there are several Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs), mostly in rural areas, which have an explicit food component also. While some of the programmes such as PDS, mid-day meals etc. are exclusively food security programmes, most of the PAPs also enhance food security. Employment programmes greatly contribute to food security by increasing the income of the poor. The National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for food and nutritional security life at affordable prices and enables people to live a life with dignity. Under this act, 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population have been categorised as eligible households for food security.

**35.1** Name the three programmes introduced by the Government of India after submission of report by NSSO in the mid-1970s.

**Ans.** The three programmes introduced by the Government of India were:

- (i) the Public Distribution System (PDS)
- (ii) the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- (iii) Food for Work (FFW).

**35.2** In which year Food-for-Work (FFW) was introduced in India?

**Ans.** The Food-for-Work (FFW) was introduced in India in the year 1977–78.

**35.3** Write a brief note on National Food Security Act, 2013.

**Ans.** Food Security means the availability of sufficient food grains to meet the demands of the adequate quantity of food at affordable prices. The primary aim of National Food Security Act, 2013 is to provide for food and nutritional security life at affordable prices and enables people to live a life with dignity. According to the provisions of this act, 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population have been categorised as eligible households for food security.

### Long Answer Type Questions

**36.** Outline the measures taken to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains since 1947.

**Ans.** To achieve self-sufficiency in food production a new strategy, Green Revolution, was adopted in agriculture, especially in the production of wheat and rice. In the year 2015–16, the highest growth rate was achieved by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh which was 44.01 and 30.12 million tonnes. However, there are still states like Odisha

that lag in food production. The total food production was 252.22 million tonnes. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh witnessed a record production of wheat in 2015–2016, to the tune of 26.87 million tonnes and 17.69 million tonnes respectively. In the same period, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh recorded a significant growth in rice production, to the tune of 15.75 and 12.51 million tonnes respectively. One of the main reasons why we have become self-sufficient in food grains over the last 30 years is due to the variety of crops grown all over the country.

**37.** Describe some of the schemes launched by the Government of India to provide food security to the poor.

**Ans.** Over the years, many schemes have been launched or old ones restructured. At present there are several Poverty Alleviation Programmes in rural areas. Some of them such as PDS, mid-day meals are exclusively food security programmes. Some of them are employment programmes such as Rural Wage Employment Programme, Employment Guarantee Scheme, etc. which greatly contribute to increase the income of the poor. In 2000, two special schemes were initiated: Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and the Annapurna Scheme (APS), with special focus on the poorest of the poor and senior citizens, respectively. In 2013, The National Food Security Act came into force. This Act provides for food and nutritional security to people by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices, so that the people may lead their lives with dignity. Under this Act, 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population is eligible for subsidised food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.

**38.** 'The Public Distribution System (PDS) is one of the most important initiatives taken by the Government of India towards ensuring food security.' Explain this statement.

**Ans.** The basic objective of the Public Distribution System in India is to provide food and other consumer goods to people at cheap and subsidised prices, so that a nutritional standard is maintained and the people are also insulated against rising prices. PDS is a system through which food that is procured by the FCI is distributed amongst the poorer sections of the society through government regulated ration shops. These ration shops are also known as Fair Price Shops. Ration shops are present in most localities, villages, towns and cities. There are about 5.5 lakh ration shops all over the



country. These shops store food grains, sugar and kerosene. The four advantages of the Public Distribution System are as follows:

- (i) The PDS has been effective in stabilising prices and making food available to consumers at affordable prices.
- (ii) It procures food from surplus regions and distributes it to deficit areas.
- (iii) Prices have been under revision in favour of poor households.
- (iv) PDS has led to an increase in grain production which has provided income security to farmers.

## ———— Let's Compete ————

### Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The most devastating famine occurred in 1943 in
  - (a) Assam.
  - (b) Bengal.
  - (c) Bihar.
  - (d) Odisha.

**Ans.** (b) Bengal.

2. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme (APS) are linked with
  - (a) the public distribution system.
  - (b) mid-day meal.
  - (c) a special nutrition programme.
  - (d) pregnant and nursing mothers.

**Ans.** (a) the public distribution system.

3. Mother Dairy is an important cooperative in
  - (a) Gujarat.
  - (b) Punjab.
  - (c) Haryana.
  - (d) Delhi.

**Ans.** (d) Delhi.

4. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is announced by the government to provide
  - (a) incentives to traders to earn maximum profit from farmers.
  - (b) incentives to farmers to increase production.
  - (c) incentives to moneylenders to lend maximum to farmers.
  - (d) none of these.

**Ans.** (b) incentives to farmers to increase production.

5. Women and children under the age of five are food insecure population due to
  - (a) malnutrition.
  - (b) low income.
  - (c) illiteracy.
  - (d) no land.

**Ans.** (a) malnutrition.

6. Which of the states have the largest number of food insecure population?
  - (a) Bihar, Jharkhand and Gujarat

- (b) Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha
- (c) Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
- (d) Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka

**Ans.** (b) Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha

7. Percentage of seasonal as well as chronic hunger in India over the years has
  - (a) increased.
  - (b) decreased.
  - (c) remained constant.
  - (d) none of these.

**Ans.** (b) decreased.

8. The concept of 'entitlements' was introduced by
  - (a) Pranab Mukherjee.
  - (b) Amartya Sen.
  - (c) Manmohan Singh.
  - (d) Sonia Gandhi.

**Ans.** (b) Amartya Sen.

9. Name the scheme which was launched in year 2000, to cover poorest of the poor families with food grains.
  - (a) AAY
  - (b) RPDS
  - (c) TPDS
  - (d) NFSA

**Ans.** (a) AAY

10. In which state ADS has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks?
  - (a) Madhya Pradesh
  - (b) Andhra Pradesh
  - (c) Maharashtra
  - (d) Punjab

**Ans.** (c) Maharashtra

## ———— Life Skills ————

1. What role can one play in solving the problem of chronic hunger in the country? Suggest two ways to do so.

**Ans.** In order to solve the problem of chronic hunger in the country these measures are needed to be taken:

- Strong Public Distribution System.
- Need to keep a check on price of essential commodities and black marketing.

2. It is your parent's marriage anniversary party. Your parents have ordered a lot of food for the guests. After the party is over you see that almost half the food is left. What do you suggest to your parents regarding the leftover food?

**Ans.** In order to avoid the wastage of food my parents should:

- distribute the remaining food among the poor people.
- have ordered the food accordingly.
- kept the remaining food for the birds to feed.