FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?

- Food security is defined as the availability of food and one's access to it. A household is considered food secure when its occupants do not live in hunger or fear of starvation.
- Food security means availability, accessibility and affordability of food to all people at all times.

DIMENSIONS OF FOOD SECURITY

- availability of food means food production within the country, food imports and the previous years stock stored in government granaries.
- accessibility means food is within reach of every person.
- affordability implies that an individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one's dietary needs.

FOOD SECURITY IS ENSURED IN A COUNTRY ONLY IF

- (1) enough food is available for all the persons
- (2) all persons have the capacity to buy food of acceptable quality and
- (3) there is no barrier on access to food.

WHY FOOD SECURITY?

- For poorest section of the society
- 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 CALAMITY?

Drought takes place



Total production of food falls

Shortage of food in effected areas



Prices will go up

Some people cannot afford

Leads to food insecurity.

STARVATION

Poor people sometimes cannot buy enough foodstuffs and thereby fail to fulfill the calorie demands of the body. Food scarcity in the society. This causes decreased supply of food to the whole of the population, and thus mass starvation may occur.

FAMINE

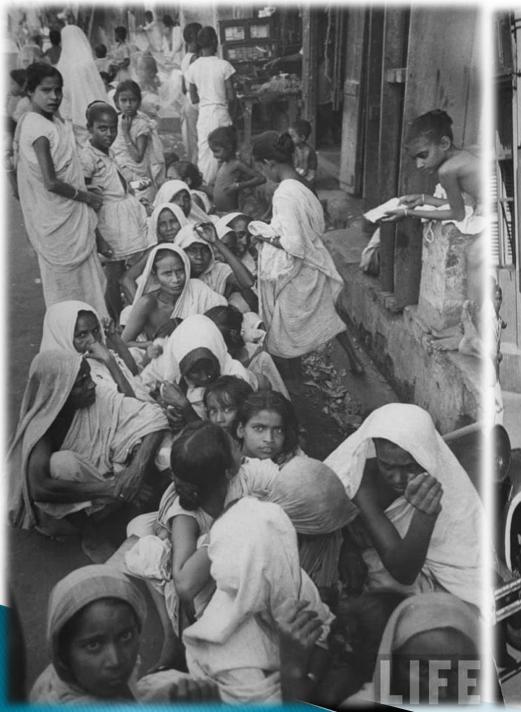
- A massive starvation might take a turn of famine.
- A Famine is characterised by wide spread deaths due to starvation and epidemics caused by forced use of contaminated water or decaying food and loss of body resistance due to weakening from starvation.

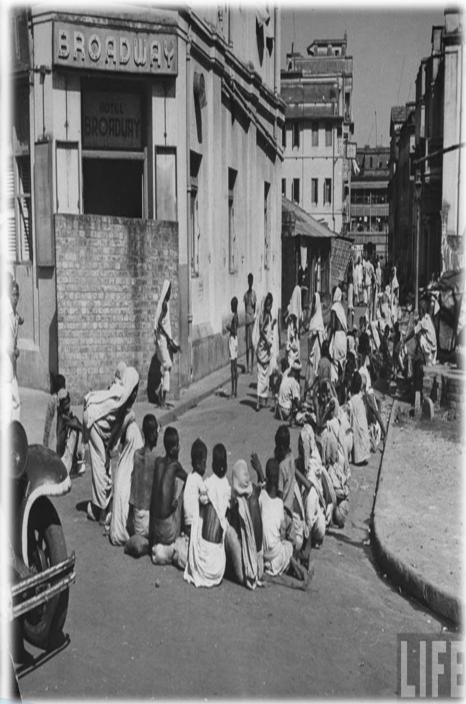
FAMINE OF BENGAL

The most devastating famine that occurred in India was the FAMINE OF BENGAL in 1943. This famine killed thirty lakh people in the province of Bengal

India (Bengal Famine) 1943

Between 2.1 and three million people died as a result of crop failure, the exporting of foods by India's British administration to Allied soldiers fighting in World War Two, the end of rice imports from Burma following Japanese invasion and a lack of food price controls by the British administration.





10 WORST FAMINES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

- ▶ China 1958–62
- Soviet Union 1921–22
- Soviet Union (Ukraine) 1932–34
- North-west China 1927
- China (Henan) 1943
- North Korea 1995–99
- India (Bengal) 1943
- China (Hunan) 1929
- Soviet Union (Ukraine and Belorussia) 1946– 47
- Cambodia 1979

INDIAN STATES WHERE FAMINE HAVE BEEN EXISTING

- It is disturbing to note that even today, there are places like
- Kalahandi and Kashipur in Orissa where faminelike conditions have been existing for many years and where some starvation deaths have also been reported.
- Starvation deaths are also reported in Baran district of Rajasthan, Palamau district of Jharkhand and many other remote areas during the recent years.
- Therefore, food security is needed in a country to ensure food at all times.

WHO ARE FOOD-INSECURE?

Worst affection groups in rural areas are:

- Landless people
- Traditional artisans
- Traditional services providers
- Petty self-employed workers
- Homeless, beggars etc.

Worst affection groups in urban areas are:

 People employed in ill-paid occupations and casual labour market.

social composition also plays very important role in food insecurity:

- The SCs, STs
- some sections of the OBCs (lower castes among them)

- Migrants (due to natural disaster)
- Nomen and children under the age of 5 years All these constitutes an important segment of the food insecure population.

According to the National Health and Family Survey (NHFS) 1998–99, the number of such women and children is approximately 11 crore.

STATES FACING FOOD INSECURITY

- Uttar Pradesh (eastern and south-eastern parts)
- Bihar
- Jharkhand
- Orissa
- West Bengal
- Chhattisgarh
- parts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

HUNGER

- Another aspect of food insecurity.
- The attainment of food security therefore involves eliminating current hunger and reducing the risks of future hunger.

DIMENSIONS OF HUNGER

CHRONIC

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

SEASONAL

- is related to cycles of food growing and harvesting
- This is prevalent in rural areas because of the seasonal nature of agricultural activities and in urban areas because of casual labourers

STRATEGIES ADOPTED FOR FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

- India adopted a new strategy in agriculture, which resulted in 'Green Revolution'.
- Food grain production especially: Wheat and Rice

The Green Revolution in India refers to a period of time when agriculture in India changed to an industrial system due to the adoption of modern methods and technology such as high yielding variety (HYV) seeds, tractors, irrigation facilities, pesticides, fertilizers etc.

- Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, officially recorded the impressive strides of Green Revolution in agriculture by releasing a special stamp entitled 'Wheat Revolution' in July 1968
- Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh recorded a significant production in field of wheat.
- West Bengal and UP, on the other hand, recorded significant production of rice.

FOOD SECURITY IN INDIA

- Government of India designed food security system. This system has two components:
- (a) buffer stock and
- (b) public distribution system.

BUFFER STOCK

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

MSP (Minimum Support Price)

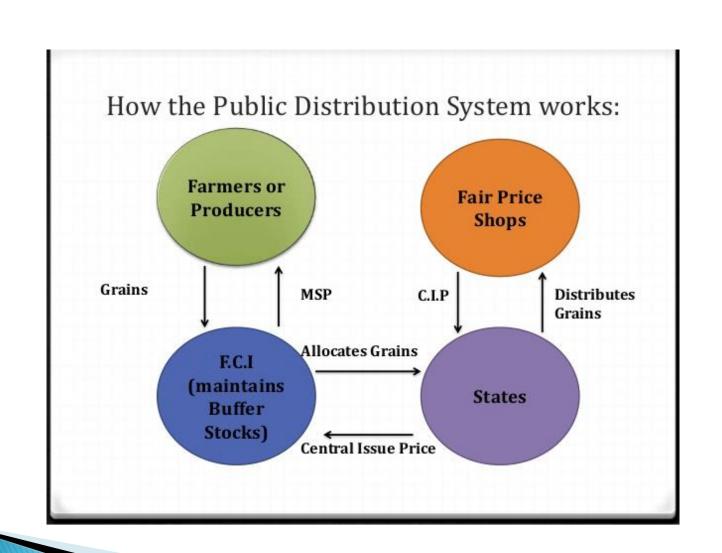
- The MSP is declared by the government every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to farmers for raising the production of these crops.
- MSP is pre-fixed price by the government to protect the producer-farmers- against excessive fall in price during bumper production years.

WHY BUFFER STOCKS?

This is done to distribute food grains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of the society at a price lower than the market price also known as Issue Price.

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)
- There are about 5.5 lakh ration shops all over the country. Ration shops also, known as Fair Price Shops, keep stock of foodgrains, sugar, and kerosene for cooking.



RATION CARDS

- There are three kinds of ration cards:
- (a) AAY cards
- (b) BPL cards
- (c) APL cards

S. No	Ration Card Type	Eligible families
1.	BPL (Below Poverty Line) cards.	The BPL cards are provided to the citizens who live below the poverty line and their annual income is less than Rs. 10,000/-
2.	APL (Above Poverty Line) cards.	The APL cards are provided to the citizens of Uttar Pradesh who are above the poverty line and have their annual income above Rs . 10,000/-
3.	AAY cards.	The AAY cards are issued to the citizens of Uttar Pradesh who are very poor and do not have any stable income source.

- 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:
- a)Public Distribution System(PDS)
- b) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
- c) Food-for-Work (FFW)

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a government programme in India which provides food, preschool education, and primary healthcare to children under 6 years of age and their mothers.
- The scheme was launched in 1975, discontinued in 1978 by the government of Morarji Desai, and then relaunched by the Tenth Five Year Plan.

- Tenth five year plan also linked ICDS to Anganwadi centres established mainly in rural areas and staffed with frontline workers.
- In addition to fighting malnutrition and ill health, the programme is also intended to combat gender inequality by providing girls the same resources as boys.

The following services are sponsored under ICDS to help achieve its objectives:

- Immunization
- Supplementary nutrition
- Health checkup
- Referral services
- Pre-school education(Non-Formal)
- Nutrition and Health information

Food-for-Work (FFW)

Food For Work Programme. The Introduction of Food for Work and Amendments. The Program was introduced in 1977-78 by giving food grains instead of wages.

MALPRACTICES BY PDS DEALERS

- diverting the grains to open market to get better margin.
- selling poor quality grains at ration shops.
- irregular opening of the shops.

ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN FOOD SECURITY

- The cooperative societies set up shops to sell low priced goods to poor people. For example, out of all fair price shops running in Tamil Nadu, around 94 per cent are being run by the cooperatives.
- Similarly In Delhi, Mother Dairy, Amul is another success story of cooperatives in milk and milk products from Gujarat

- Similarly, in Maharashtra, Academy of Development Science (ADS) has facilitated a network of NGOs for setting up grain banks in different regions.
- ADS organises training and capacity building programmes on food security for NGOs.

THANK YOU