

Government Measures for Food Security

Chapter 19: Food Security in India · Topic 2

Key Concept

The Public Distribution System (PDS) distributes subsidised food grains, like rice and wheat, to eligible households through ration shops across the country.

The government maintains buffer stocks of food grains, purchased from farmers at Minimum Support Prices (MSP), to ensure availability during shortages or price fluctuations.

Schemes like the Mid-Day Meal Programme provide free meals to school children, improving nutrition while also encouraging school attendance.

The National Food Security Act (2013) legally entitles a large portion of India's population to receive subsidised food grains, reinforcing food security as a fundamental right.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Public Distribution System (PDS) distributes subsidised food grains.
- PDS works through ration shops.
- The government maintains buffer stocks of food grains.
- Buffer stocks are purchased at Minimum Support Prices (MSP).
- The Mid-Day Meal Programme provides free school meals.
- This improves nutrition and school attendance.
- The National Food Security Act was passed in 2013.
- This Act legally entitles citizens to subsidised food grains.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research how the Public Distribution System works.
- 2 Discuss what buffer stocks are and why they matter.
- 3 Explain what Minimum Support Price means.
- 4 Research the Mid-Day Meal Programme's benefits.
- 5 Discuss the significance of the National Food Security Act.
- 6 Debate whether current food security measures are sufficient.