CLASS IX
ECONOMICS
UNIT IV – FOOD SECURITY

NOTES

➢ **Food grains** include cereals, millets and pulses.

➢ As millions of Indian still cannot afford enough food, **problem of food security** still continues to be a major concern of our society.

➢ After the **Green Revolution,** food grains production increases from 50.8 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 208.3 million in 2005-06.

➢ Now, India no longer imports food grains from other food grains producing countries.

➢ Despite these successes, millions of poor in India are still suffering from persistent hunger and malnutrition.

➢ Food security is a condition which exists when good quality food is available, accessible and affordable to very person in the country.

➢ According to the World Food Summit 1996, food security exists when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.

➢ Food security is based on three pillars, namely, i) food availability, ii) food accessibility, and iii) food appropriateness.

➢ For food security, it is important to build enough buffer stock.

➢ The Central Government has appointed a special agency called, the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** for maintaining proper buffer stock.

➢ The FCI purchases food grains (rice, wheat, other cereals and pulses) from the farmers in the states where there is surplus production at **Minimum Support Price (MSP).**

➢ The purchased and stored food grains are distributed through **Public Distribution System (PDS)** by opening Fair Price shops or Ration shops in all localities, villages, towns and cities.

➢ The ration cards like

   (i) Antyodaya card for the poorest of the poor,

   (ii) BPL cards for those who are below poverty line,

   (iii) APL cards for all others are issued to buy a fixed quantity of food grains at minimum price.

➢ The PDS is the most important step taken up by the government of India towards ensuring food security.

➢ Subsequently, TPDS was introduced to target the 'poorest of the poor'.

➢ Two more special schemes called **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Annapurna Scheme (APS)** were also introduced with special target groups of the 'poorest of the poor' and 'indigent senior citizens' respectively.

➢ Rise in the MSP of wheat and rice has resulted in the rise of huge stock of food grains with the FCI.

➢ Despite the over flowing granaries of the FCI, it is seen that widespread hunger is still prevalent in our country as PDs dealer often divert the grains into open market at high prices.

➢ Some Cooperative Societies like Mother Dairy in Delhi, Amul in Gujarat, are quite successful in providing milk, vegetables and milk products to the consumers thereby ensuring food security of different sections of society.

➢ Although some progress has been made in the elimination of hunger, calorie deficiency still persists among the young children under the age of five years, pregnant and nursing mothers and old persons in an acute way.

➢ In order to overcome the deficiency in terms of total calorie obtained from food intake, the government has taken up two programmes, namely the **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MMS).**

➢ Now the government has made food grains available to the poorest of the poor families at highly concessional prices, i.e. Rs 2 per kg of wheat and Rs 3 per kg of rice under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA).**

➢ Earlier, Manipur has surplus production of rice and could export some of it to the neighboring states, but now Manipur is marginally deficit in food grains production and deficit in oilseeds and pulses.

➢ The state produced 467.13 thousand tonnes of food grains in 2005-06.

➢ To ensure food security in the state, adequate provisions should be made for increasing food grains production as well as raising the purchasing power of the poor.

➢ The transport system should be properly developed so that food grains can reach any corner of the state at any time.

➢ Manipur is still facing the problem of food security as the PDS and the TPDS in the state are not functioning properly.

****