

Question No.

Q. 7

Describe the food management in India. What are the lacunas of food management? How can they be curbed? (250 words).

Ans. 7

FOOD MANAGEMENT :-

It is a process of procuring, storing, maintaining & distribution of essential agro-commodities to the people.

In India, there are several govt. agencies who are authorised for procuring several agro commodities.

- Foodgrains — Food Corporation of India.
- Pulses & Oilseeds — NAFED.

Keeping in mind that we have several socio-economic factors too so foodgrains are distributed to BPL families at cheaper costs at PDS (Public Distribution System).

Concept of MSP :-

Govt. agencies procure foodgrains at a pre-decided price known as MSP (Minimum Support Price). This helps

in no. of ways :-

- Farmers can get good amt. for the crops which they had produced.
- can plan early which crop he can grow which can fetch him good income.
- able to ~~can~~ control market prices.

### SHORTCOMINGS OF FOOD MANAGEMENT

Although India is successful in becoming self-reliant in production of foodgrains, but still there are certain problems which needs to be addressed:

- FCI godowns in big cities - Small & marginal farmers don't have that much money to spend in transporting their produce to cities. So, they end up selling in local haats at any value.
- Measures not proper - Bumper production of foodgrains (wheat & rice) can lead to lack of storage. So, some of the foodgrains are stored in open & gets attacked by pests & rains.
- Vegetables not under MSP - Fruits & vegetables are not under MSP regime which causes price-souring of these items.

MEASURES :-

- fixing the MSP for fruits & vegetables
- more focus on nutritional quality of foodgrains which can help double farmer's income.
- Scientists should be encouraged to increase the shelf life of certain foodgrains.
- MSP for oilseeds & pulses should be made higher ~~for~~ to increase its production. Currently, most of them are imported.