

Chapter - 4 | Food Security in India

QUIZ
PART-04

1. What is the main objective of the Public Distribution System (PDS)?
- A. To export food grains
 - B. To import food grains
 - C. To distribute food grains through ration shops
 - D. To raise market prices (C)

Explanation: PDS aims to distribute essential food grains to the poor via a network of ration shops.

2. What type of shops are used to implement the PDS?
- A. Department stores
 - B. Fair Price Shops
 - C. Cooperative banks
 - D. Wholesale outlets (B)

Explanation: Fair Price Shops, also known as ration shops, are the outlets that distribute food grains under PDS.

3. What are the three types of ration cards under the PDS?
- A. Red, Yellow, Blue
 - B. Silver, Gold, Platinum
 - C. APL, BPL, Antyodaya
 - D. Basic, Standard, Premium (C)

Explanation: The three types are Antyodaya for the poorest, BPL for below poverty line, and APL for above poverty line families.

4. What was the purpose of introducing the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) in 1992?
- A. To increase exports
 - B. To cover urban centers only
 - C. To target remote and backward areas
 - D. To eliminate ration cards (C)

Explanation: RPDS was introduced to improve food access in remote and backward blocks.

5. Which scheme launched in 2000 aimed to provide highly subsidized food grains to the poorest BPL families?
- A. Mid-Day Meal Scheme
 - B. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
 - C. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)
 - D. Annapurna Scheme (C)

Explanation: AAY was launched in December 2000 to support the poorest of the BPL families with subsidized food grains.

6. What is one of the key criticisms of the PDS related to storage?
- A. Lack of granaries
 - B. Under-purchasing of food grains
 - C. Excess stock leading to wastage
 - D. Absence of refrigeration (C)

Explanation: Excess food grain procurement has led to rotting and wastage due to poor storage, increasing costs.

7. Why has the PDS been criticized for contributing to environmental degradation?
- A. It encourages plastic packaging
 - B. It promotes export-based farming
 - C. It causes water table depletion due to wheat and rice farming
 - D. It excludes organic farming (C)

Explanation: Higher MSPs for water-intensive crops like wheat and rice have led to overuse of water and water table depletion.

8. What role do cooperative societies play in ensuring food security?
- A. Monitoring MSP implementation
 - B. Operating ration shops in remote areas
 - C. Importing food grains
 - D. Replacing government agencies (B)

Explanation: Cooperatives, especially in states like Tamil Nadu, run a large share of Fair Price Shops to ensure food access.

9. What issue arises from dealers in the PDS system?
- A. Charging higher taxes
 - B. Selling luxury goods
 - C. Diverting grains to the open market
 - D. Offering credit sales (C)

Explanation: Some dealers divert food grains to open markets for higher profits, affecting quality and availability at ration shops.

10. How much food grain was allocated per family under the AAY scheme after April 2002?
- A. 20 kilograms
 - B. 25 kilograms
 - C. 30 kilograms
 - D. 35 kilograms (D)

Explanation: The allocation under AAY increased to 35 kg per eligible family starting from April 2002.