

OmPrakash Gupta
Assistant professor
Dept. of Political Science
Mahatma Gandhi Central University,
Motihari, Bihar

THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT, 2013

- Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 10th September, 2013.
- An Act to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- Right to receive food grains at subsidised prices by persons belonging to eligible households under Targeted Public Distribution System

PROVISIONS OF FOOD SECURITY

- Every person belonging to priority households, identified under sub-section (1) of section 10, shall be entitled to receive five kilograms of food grains per person per month at subsidised prices specified in Schedule I from the State Government under the Targeted Public Distribution System:
- The households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana shall, be entitled to thirty-five kilograms of food grains per household per month at the prices
- The "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" scheme launched by the Central Government on the 25th day of December, 2000.

OTHER PROVISIONS IN ACT PREGNANT WOMEN/ UNDER NOURISHED CHILDREN

- Every pregnant woman and lactating mother shall be entitled to :-
 - (a) meal, free of charge, during pregnancy and six months after the child birth, through the local anganwadi, so as to meet the nutritional standards and
 - (b) maternity benefit of not less than rupees six thousand, in such instalments as may be prescribed by the Central Government
- Every child up to the age of fourteen years shall have the following entitlements for his nutritional needs:-
 - (a) in the case of children in the age group of six months to six years age appropriate meal, free of charge, through the local anganwadi so as to meet the nutritional standards. Children below the age of six months, exclusive breast feeding shall be promoted
 - (b) in the case of children, up to class VIII or within the age group of six to fourteen years, whichever is applicable, one mid-day meal, free of charge, everyday, except on school holidays, in all schools run by local bodies, Government and Government aided schools, so as to meet the nutritional standards
- Every school, referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of the Act and anganwadi shall have facilities for cooking meals, drinking water and sanitation
- Provided that in urban areas facilities of centralised kitchens for cooking meals may be used, wherever required, as per the guidelines issued by the Central Government.

THE TARGETED DISTRIBUTION SKSTEM

- (a) doorstep delivery of food grains to the Targeted Public Distribution System outlets;
- (b) application of information and communication technology tools including end-toend computerisation in order to ensure transparent recording of transactions at all levels, and to prevent diversion;
- (c) leveraging "aadhaar" for unique identification, with biometric information of entitled beneficiaries for proper targeting of benefits under this Act;
- (d) full transparency of records;
- (e) preference to public institutions or public bodies such as Panchayats, self- help groups, co-operatives, in licensing of fair price shops and management of fair price shops by women or their collectives;
- (f) diversification of commodities distributed under the Public Distribution System over a period of time;
- (g) support to local public distribution models and grains banks;
- (h) introducing schemes, such as, cash transfer, food coupons, or other schemes, to the targeted beneficiaries in order to ensure their food grain entitlements
- (i) All Targeted Public Distribution System related records shall be placed in the public domain and kept open for inspection to the public, in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government.

WOMEN AS HEAD FOR RATION CARDS

- ❖ The eldest woman who is not less than eighteen years of age, in every eligible household, shall be head of the household for the purpose of issue of ration cards.
- ❖ Where a household at any time does not have a woman or a woman of eighteen years of age or above, but has a female member below the age of eighteen years, then, the eldest male member of the household shall be the head of the household for the purpose of issue of ration card and the female member, on attaining the age of eighteen years, shall become the head of the household for such ration cards in place of such male member.

WHY FOOD SECURITY?

- Inspite of food grain production doubled in recent times, huge population has lack of access to food. India is world"s largest producer of crops, rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, vegetables and milk
- 194.4 million people are undernourished in India
- 14.5% of the population is undernourished in India
- \$ 51.4% women between 15 to 49 years of age are anaemic
- 37.9% of the children aged five have less height; 20.8% have less weight
- The Global Hunger Index 2018 ranks India at 103 out of 119 countries

FACTORS RELATED TO FOOD SECURITY

- Sustainable development and food security are interdependent
- Inclusive economic growth
- Population
- Employment with basic wages
- Social security
- Access to clean water
- Emerging health and sanitation
- Inequality
- Gender discrimination
- **Rural-urban divide**

FOOD SECURITY REQUIRES

- Improving the governance of food systems
- Inclusive and responsible investments in agriculture and rural areas
- In health and education
- Empowering small producers
- Strengthening social protection mechanisms for risk reduction

DIMENSIONS OF FOOD SECURITY

Dimensions of Food Security

Availability

Access

Stability

Utilization

WHY FOOD INSECURITY

- Uncertainty about ability to obtain food
- Forced to reduce quality and quantity of food
- Lack of money
- Poverty

- IMPLICATIONS
- Diminishes dietary quality
- Disrupts normal eating patterns
- Negative consequences for nutrition and health

- Therefore, Right to Food in necessary for a dignity of life
- The Protection of Human Rights Act 1993 also demands the Right to Food
- Right to food implies the right to food at appropriate nutritional levels
- The Right to Food is a universal human right
- Indian Constitution makers also pledged Food Security in independent India

RIGHT TO FOOD PLEDGED IN INDIAN CONSTITUTION

- Article 21: guarantees a fundamental right to life and personal liberty
- Article 39: The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing:-
 - (a) that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood
- Article 43: "The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard

- Of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas.
- Article 47: The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks any of drugs which are injurious to health.

FOOD SECURITY: UNITED NATIONS

- The second goal of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030
- The UN accepts that hunger and malnutrition are biggest risks of health worldwide, greater than AIDS, Malaria,& Tuberculosis combined
- UN estimates that 821 million people suffers from hunger in the world

UNITED NATIONS

- UN World Food Programme: aims to bring food assistance to more than 80 million people in 80 countries
- UN World Bank: work with partners to improve food security and build a food system
- UN Food and Agricultural Organisation: It has three goals, the eradication of hunger; food in security and malnutrition; the elimination of poverty
- UN Interventional Fund for Agricultural Development: focused on rural poverty reduction

FOOD CRISIS DURING CORONA VIRUS LOCKDOWN

- After lockdown, mass migration due to threat of food security
- Over 90% of India"s 500 million non-agricultural workers are employed in the informal economy, as construction workers, food venders, rickshaw drivers, or in sales
- Industries are closed due to lockdown
- Migrated to home villages with great hardships for food security
- Central Government announced 23 billion dollar relief package to provide food security and cash transfer to the poor
- PM Cares Fund is established

Conclusion

- The population of India and the world is increasing; by 2050, the world has to feed 9 billion people.
- Everybody needs food, food security is a challenge because it is related to economy and society.
- Climate change has adverse impact on agricultural production, 40% of the world/ and mass is arid that do not support vegetation.
- World may face water scarcity in future.
- Food prices are rising, urbanisation is increasing, people are leaning farming.
- In India, agriculture accounts 18% of the economy output & 47% of workforce India second biggest producer of fruits and vegetables, but 194 million people are undernourished.
- India is requires policy making keeping food security in top priority.
- We should save waste of food.

