

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिय में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Q. In the context of census 2021, food safety net has to be provided to the beneficiaries without delay. Discuss.

↳ The National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 through Public Distribution System (PDS) provides a crucial safety net for roughly 800 million people also NFSA coverage ratios were too low to start with.

↳ census 2021

↳ The last census in 2011 and today, Population increase has not been accounted for in determining the number of ration cards.

↳ Problems

↳ Government inaction led to the matter being taken to supreme court in the Problems and Miseries of Migrant Labourers case.

↳ In 2022, court directed the union of India to come out with a formula or appropriate policy, so that benefits under NFSA are not restricted as per the census 2011 and more and more needy persons get the benefit under National Food Security Act.

↳ Beneficiaries without Delay.

↳ Official population projections for 2021 are available from the Registrar General of India.

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↳ on the basis of Niti Aayog's view, the prime concerns, while fixing the ceiling at the time of enactment of the NFSA was that as standard of living of people would improve over a period of time, the coverage may be reduced.

↳ states are responsible for identifying people for PDS ration cards, once they are given the numbers to be covered by the central government.

↳ several state governments have used their own resources eg. Chhattisgarh and Odisha

↳ Way forward.

↳ Robust procurement trends and a comfortable food stocks position are what make an expansion affordable. It roughly increase by 10%.

↳ Extension of 'Double Rations' doubled the central food subsidy, it helped the government control the storage problem arising from its ballooning buffer stocks.

↳ Supreme court should direct Government to get on with apportioning the additional coverage of roughly 100 million across states, so that states can identify new ration card beneficiaries. Poor people should have to not pay the price for the state's failure in conducting 2021 census.