

① In the middle of the pandemic the FCI holds the key to warding off a looming crisis of hunger and starvation (200 words)

Ans:-

THE UNEXPECTED MENACE :-

The whole world is now struggling to fight back the pandemic and to free itself from the tight hold of economic downturn (economic disaster)

Unfortunately, the disease spread is getting worse each day leaving millions at the grip of poverty and starvation.

The entire responsibility of protecting the people as well as the economy falls on the shoulders of the government.

Though we have not yet arrived at a permanent solution there is a lot that Government should do to prevent the situation from escalating into a disaster.

Especially when it comes to starvation, the Government should deploy FCI to fix things back and restore the situation.

FCI TO BE RELIED UPON :-

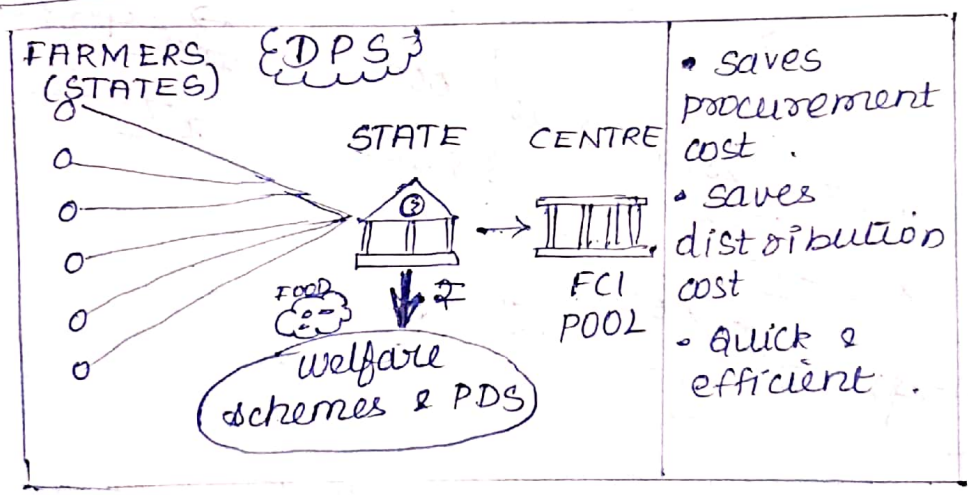
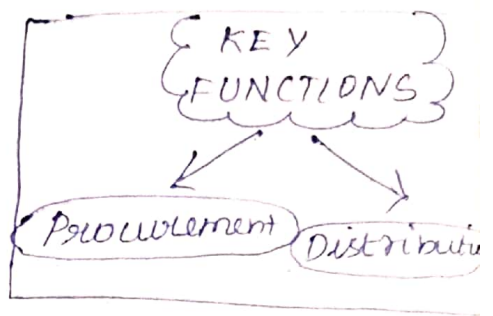
In spite of major criticisms regarding poor storage facilities and corruption, the Food Corporation of India (1965), now in the sick time of pandemic has become crucial to feed the starving.

people of the country.

MEASURES THAT COULD HELP GET RID OF STARVATION:

1. PROCUREMENT:-

FCI has a huge storage facility (851.54 LMT) and a healthy quantity of buffer stock (to be used in times of need). Now FCI is following an efficient system called "decentralized procurement system" [DPS]



- saves procurement cost.
- saves distribution cost
- quick & efficient.

2. DISTRIBUTION:-

FCI can efficiently distribute food grains to remote areas quickly through a sound logistics system (Railways). The PDS should be enhanced and it should provide cereals to people on the basis of Aadhar card for the time being.

3. E-AUCTION:-

Through this system states and other institutions who are in need of excess grains can buy it from FCI

through e-auctions.

(3)

4. STORAGE:

Storage facilities should be improved to preserve the quality of grains for a long period of time, thereby reducing wastage.

5. EMPLOYMENT:

FCI employs nearly 16000 departmental workers, thereby contributing to the livelihood of the people. It plays a decent role in the economy as well.

6. PRICING SYSTEM:

In this crucial situation, FCI should see to that the farmers are given a reasonable price without affecting the general public. This would preserve the interest of poor farmers and poor citizens through cash transfer & food subsidy.

WARDING OFF LOOMING CRISIS:

On the whole, it is obvious that FCI has a significant role to play in this hazardous time. And it is the only institution to be relied upon to combat hunger today.

However it needs to be improved a lot in the future in terms of advanced storage and quality checking facilities backed up with an efficient pricing system.

