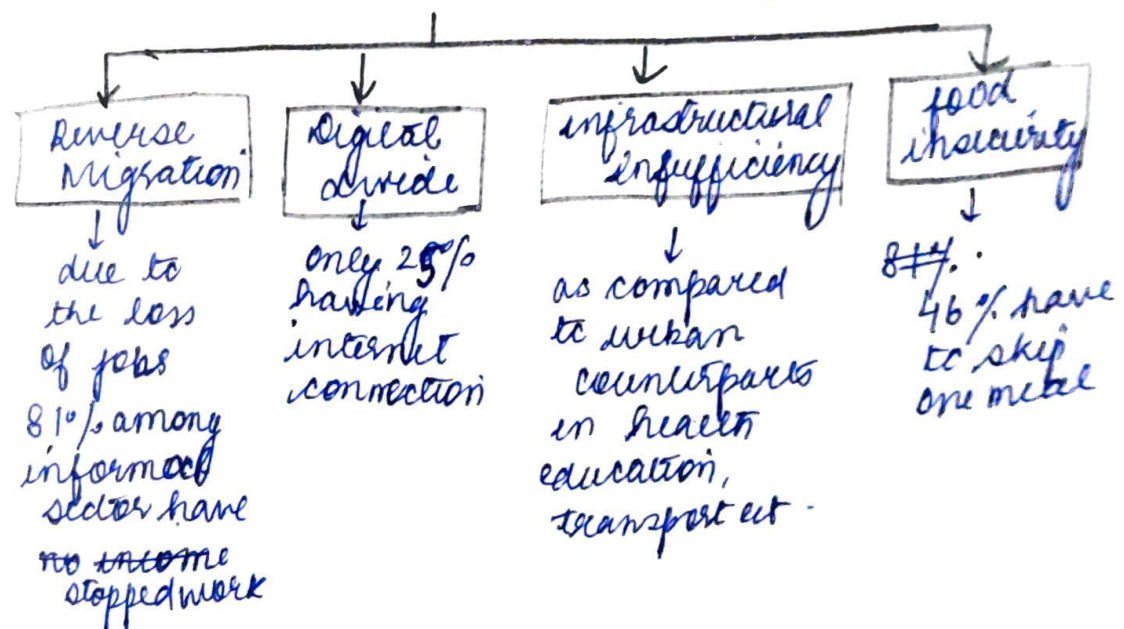


28/5/21

ques) As several states are under lockdown again, urgent response is needed from the centre to overcome distress in rural areas. Discuss. (200 words).

ans) The re-imposed lockdown yet again tampers the livelihoods especially of informal sector and rural areas.

Rural areas with issues of



These issues among many others are depriving the rural residents their fundamental rights and the centre's onus lies in overcoming this distress

① Revamping MGNREGA

As compared to last year, this year there is lesser resource allocation to MGNREGA and it also guarantees only 4% increase in wages.

• Increasing the number of employment days and increasing wage increment to 7% will be a major relief.

② Revamping Public Distribution System

The government has ensured 5 kg free foodgrains to people under NFS but yet the amount is low as compared to last year's procurement.

As the pandemic economic crisis is going to prevail, government must allocate these grains till one year.

③ The way overcoming digital divide

Government has launched several platforms such as SHRAMIK, e-NAM, e-SANTA etc. for development of several areas. But they will be of no use until digital illiteracy and lack of resources prevails.

Thus offline alternatives and providing agents to help them can be opted for.

Thus, the distress among our 66% population can be addressed by sensitively implementing the ongoing schemes.