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QNo:06: Highlight the concept of public Administration in Islam. Explain the responsibilities of civil servants.

1 Introduction:

The detail and systematic execution of public law. Every particular application of general law is an act of administration (Woodrow Wilson)

Public administration in Islam refers to the system of managing public affairs and implementing laws and policies in a way that aligns with Islamic teachings. Public administration in Islam is based upon justice, welfare, and accountability etc. In Islam, a civil servant must be a good character. Additionally, a civil servant works for promoting the concept of piety, equality, justice, peace, and prosperity of society.

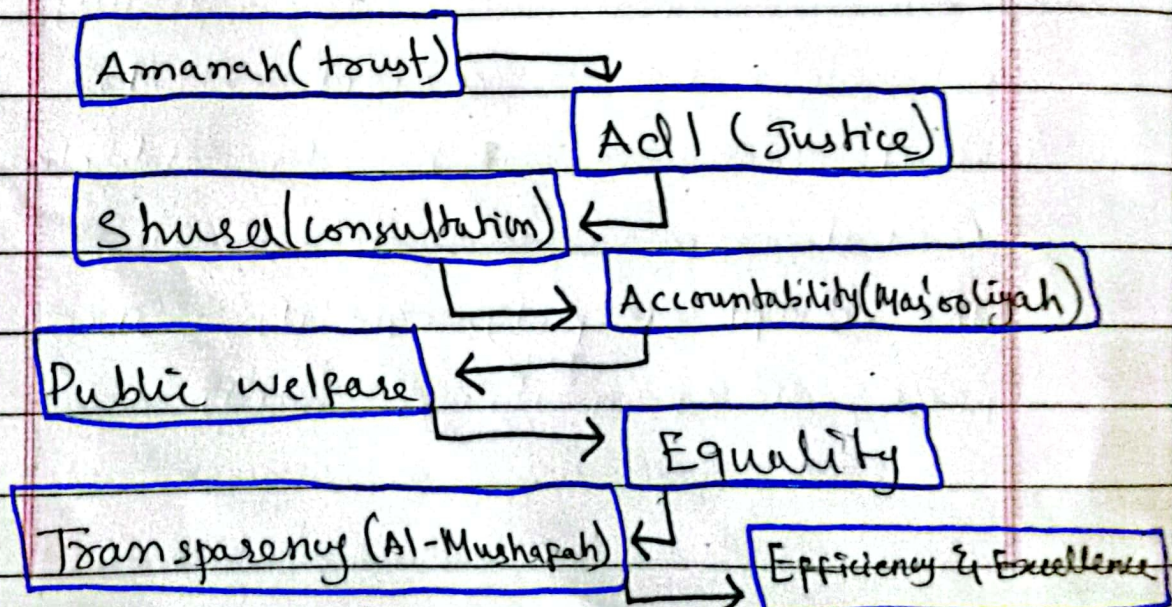
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2. Understanding the term public administration and civil servants.

Public means people.

The term Administration is a English word with latin root. "Ad" and "ministration" means "to serve" and "manage" respectively. It is a part of executive body which handles the state affairs. Besides, civil servants are the representatives of government which act as a bridge between government and public for delivering public services.

3- Concept of public administration in the light of Islam



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The concept of public administration in Islam is based on Amanah, Adl, Shura, Accountability, efficiency and excellence (Itqan) and so on. These characteristics promote good governance and ensure rule of law which makes society better.

"أمر بالمعروف ونهى عن المنكر"

Enjoining the right and forbidding the wrong (Al-Quran)

4 Responsibilities of civil servants in Islam

a) Justice and Fairness (Adl)

b) Accountability (Mas'uliyah)

c) Honesty and Integrity (Amanah)

d) serving public sincerely (khidmah)

e) Simplicity and humility in leadership

f) Consultation (shura)

g) Transparency and truthfulness

h) Equal treatment and non-discrimination

i) Avoidance of corruption

a) A civil servant must ensure justice and fairness (Adl)

Justice is the cornerstone of Islamic governance. A civil servant must ensure fairness in all decisions, without bias towards status, wealth or power.

The Prophet (P.B.U.H) judged fairly between a Jewish man and a Muslim, proving justice must be applied equally, even across religious lines.

b) A civil servant must be accountable (Mas'ooliyah) for his action

Every action of a public servant is a trust for which they are accountable before Allah and society. Quran also ensures accountability of every action.

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[And stop them; indeed, they are to be questioned (37:24)]

c) A civil servant must be a Honest and Integrity (Amanah)

Honesty is a sacred duty in Islam. A dishonest civil servant betrays the trust of the people and Allah. In Islam, civil servant must be honest with his work and to the people.

[When an appointed tax collector kept some items for himself, the Prophet (P.B.U.H) removed him and publicly warned against betraying public trust.]

d) A civil servant must serves the public sincerely

Civil servants are meant to serve people with compassion, not seek personal gain. In Islam, civil servant must serve people sincerely.

[Umar Ibn Al-Khattab (R.A) carried food]

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on his back to feed a hungry family, even though he was the Caliph.

e) Simplicity and humility in Leadership

Islam emphasizes simplicity in character. Public servant should not be arrogant or disconnected from the people. It is important for a civil servant to adopt simple lifestyle and not allowed to use state and public resources for own luxuries.

Hazrat Ali (RA) wrote to his governor:
"Remember, you are a servant of people, not their master"

f) It is obligatory in Islam for consultation as a civil servant

Decisions should involve consultation with others, especially in public matters. Even Prophet (P.B.U.H) consulted before taking any decision.

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Quran also emphasizes consultation (shura) (shura):

["And consult with them in Affairs"]
(Al-Imran, 3:159)

g) Transparency and truthfulness also a responsibility of civil servant in Islam.

It is crucial to be a truthful and transparent for being a civil servant. In Islam, a public servant must always be clear and truthful in dealing and promotes transparency in governance.

["And do not mix the truth with falsehood or conceal the truth"]
(Al-Baqarah, 2:42)

h) Islam encourages a civil servant to promote equality and discourage discrimination

Islam emphasizes rule of

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law and equality, and discourages discrimination. It is obligatory for a civil servant to treat ^{citizens} equally, regardless of background.

By Allah, If Fatimah the daughter of Muhammad (SAW), had stolen, I would cut off her hand (Bukhari and Muslim)

i) Avoidance of corruption (Rishwa) is obligatory for a civil servant

In Islam, corruption is prohibited (Haram). Bribery and misuse of power are major sins in Islam. A civil servant must prevent himself from corruption.

Prophet Muhammad (P-B-U-H) said: "May Allah curse the one who gives a bribe and the one who takes it." (Tirmidhi, 1337)

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5 Conclusion

In a nutshell, public administration is a Latin word which means to serve people. Public administration refers to the system of managing public affairs. The concept of public administration in Islam is based upon equality, transparency, efficiency and public welfare etc. A civil servant is a bridge between ^{the} government and public. He has the responsibilities to promote justice and fairness, ensure equality, Avoid corruption and be honest with his profession and people.