

Q The evolution of Democratic system has always remained a dilemma in Pakistan, even after passing more than seven decades of its existence the democracy could not get its roots. Discuss in detail (2023).

"Introduction"

Since Independence, Pakistan has been facing civilian-military rule combination.

Initially, Pakistan was a democratic country, but after the death of Quaid-e-Azam and Liaquat Ali Khan Pakistan faced political breakdown. This question will highlight those factors due to which after seven decades Pakistan's democratic system always remained a dilemma.

"Democratic Eras in Pakistan"

1) "Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto" :-

After the first general elections in Pakistan in 1971, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto became the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He achieved many things during his tenure are;

a) "1973 Constitution"

The most important contribution of

his that he made 1973 constitution.

Through this constitution, he made parliamentary federal system in Pakistan. Furthermore, according to this constitution the elections were held for Prime Minister, President, Senate, Speaker of National assembly, and deputy speaker. Additionally, according to this constitution the prime minister had the real powers and President had a ceremonial power. Most importantly, Bhutto himself made several amendments in the constitution.

"Amendments"

"1st Amendment" →

Bhutto passed himself 1st amendment through which he recognized Bangladesh as a sovereign state.

"2nd Amendment" →

Through second Amendment, he declared "Quadianis" ~~an~~ non Muslim in Pakistan.

2) "Father of Pakistan's Nuclear program:-"

He started Nuclear program of Pakistan with very popular slogan as

"We would eat grass, but we would make our nuclear bomb".

→ Factors leading to his Downfall

In 1977, Bhutto announced early elections. He started his campaign, but other nine political parties made alliance against him known as "PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA)". This was the biggest challenge for him. However, after the elections Bhutto won most of the seats, but the opposition did not accept the result and due to which situation getting worse. The Army imposed martial law in three different cities and arrested the Bhutto and General Zia became the new leader of the country. This shows that in Pakistan opposition never accepted the election's result. This factor shows that due to which democratic system has always remained in a dilemma.

→ "Introduction of Imposition of Martial laws"

After arresting Bhutto, General Zia-ul-

Haq became the new leader of Pakistan and he imposed the martial law in Pakistan for the third time. He made several amendments in Pakistan's law, especially in Shariah laws because his propaganda was based on Islamization. However, he introduced new article 58(2)(b) for his own sake.

"Introduction of 58(2)(b)"

Through 8th amendment, he introduced article 58(2)(b) which gave massive power to the President. After this amendment, the President had the powers to appoint Prime Minister, Governors of provinces, and Judges of high court and Supreme Court and Chief Justice as well.

This shows that the Prime Minister had ~~the~~ become the subordinate to it. Most importantly, the President had the powers to dissolve national assembly whenever he wanted. This shows that the martial law is a factor due to which democratic system has always remained in a dilemma.

"Unlawful Use of Article 58(2)(b)"

General Zia-ul-Haq conducted the general elections in Pakistan, but without political parties.

However, Sardar Muhammad Khan Jinnah became the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Sardar Muhammad Khan Jinnah wanted to change the system, but Zia-ul-Haq dissolved the national assembly and his government was fallen down. This

shows that article 58(2)(b) is another reason due to which the democratic system has always remained a dilemma in Pakistan.

→ "Benazir Bhutto"

Benazir Bhutto became the Prime Minister of Pakistan for 2 times.

During her first tenure, her relations with establishment was not good due to which within two years Ghulam

Ishaq Khan threw her government.

Furthermore, again, she became the Prime Minister of Pakistan after recognition of Nawaz Sharif and Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Furthermore,

Farooq Laghari from her party became the President of Pakistan. Due to

Serious difference again her government

thrown by the President. Therefore, article 58(2)(b) is the main reason behind democratic dilemma in Pakistan.

→ "Nawaz Sharif"

Nawaz Sharif became the Prime Minister of Pakistan for three times. First time he became the Prime Minister after Benazir Bhutto. However, his first government was overthrown by President Ghulam Ishaq, but he got relief from the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Additionally, again he became the Prime Minister of Pakistan. However, due to differences between him and Pervez Musharraf, Pervez Musharraf dissolved his government. Again he became the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the opposition leader Imran started protest against him with the slogan of "Naya Pakistan" and the Supreme Court dismissed him. ~~Re~~ In conclusion, the excessive use of article 58(2)(b), involvement of establishment and unnecessary protests are the reasons behind democratic dilemma in Pakistan.

→ "President Asif Ali Zardari"

After the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, Asif Ali Zardari became the President of Pakistan and Yousaf Raza Gillani became the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The government of Pakistan Peoples Party passed the 18th amendment through which they changed more than 100 articles of the constitution and gave the same shape of 1973. Most importantly, they eliminated article 58(2)(b) and closed the door for martial law as well.

Furthermore, according to the Constitution, the first time in history of Pakistan any political party completed its tenure.

This shows that they tried to solve seven decades democratic dilemma in Pakistan, but they could not do it completely.

→ "Imran Khan"

Imran Khan became the first time Prime Minister of Pakistan. During his tenure, Pakistan faced severe economic challenges and inflation was increasing day by day. However, the opposition parties made alliance against him known as "Pakistan Democratic Movement" ("PDM") and his government was removed through vote of no confidence. In a nutshell

due to
alliances of opposition the democratic
evolution has always remained in
dilemma.

"Conclusion"

In conclude, this question concluded that due to military rules, unnecessary protests against the government, opposition's deny of elections results, and unlawful used of article 58(2)(b) are the reasons due to which democratic system has always remained in dilemma in Pakistan, even after passing more than seven decades of its existence.