

Section 2

Question no. 1.

Who are entitled to receive Zakat?
How poverty can be alleviated with its distribution in Islamic society?

I- Introduction:

Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam. It is a necessary obligation. Quran itself has decided the masaraf of Zakat. In one of the verse of Holy Quran, people who are entitled to receive Zakat are clearly mentioned. Zakat system has ability to reduce poverty from society. It prevents hoarding of money and have check on materialism in society. Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself gave Zakat and urged others to fulfill this necessary obligation. Hazarat Abu Bakr Sadiq fought Khayber war with the dissenters of Zakat. In Islamic society, the only way to growth of economy is prescribed which is Zakat and wajibat-al-Fitr.

ii- Who are entitled to receive Zakat?

In holy Quran there are seven masarif of zakat as described under:

'Zakat expenditures are only for the poor, the needy, those employed to it, for bringing hearts together, for freeing the captives, for paying debt, and for travellers'

— Surah Taubah —

iii- How much zakat is to pay?

Zakat is payed in a fixed amount (a certain per cent) on certain good. For instance, for silver (52.5 per cent), on gold (7.5), camel (40), Goats (30), on land (equal to silver 52.5). People having gold reserved for more than one year of time, are liable to pay zakat on every 7.5 tola gold. Similar is the case for other goods not under use for a certain period of time.

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iv How Poverty Can be alleviated with distribution of Zakat in Islamic Society?

Zakat system is one of the ways to reduce poverty from society. Islamic Economic system is one of the best economic systems of the world. A renowned American economist said in this context:

Economic system of Islam was the first system developed during 14th Century. Upon muslim migration to Medina, there were only four markets in Medina. Arabia learned economy from Muslims, they learned marketing, investment, merchantism from muslims economists. Zakat was one of the refined innovation in economic system — MC Pickett —

i- Golden mean and Equity:

Islam believes in the concept of golden mean that is: neither Capitalism nor Communism but to develop a middle way between them. It takes good virtues of both these systems

The system of equity develops through Zakat. In equitable system, everybody tries hard to sustain livelihood and those having more wealth gave to those who are in need of it. In capitalism, the capitalist elite takes all the wealth and in communism, specific hands own and give money.

2 Zakat curbs unchecked materialism:

Zakat is a control on excessive hoarding of money. It is the natural desire of humans to collect wealth and own all the luxuries of life.

Upon paying zakat, people get to know about grievances of poor. They abandon materialism and turn to the God.

The way of god can be achieved through Zakat:

إِنَّ الْأَرْحَمَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقَاكُمْ

He is dearest to God who is more pious

(Al-Hajurat 49:13)

3- Distribution of wealth adds to economy and reduce poverty:

Wealth distribution is a system of economy through which economy boost. When economy boost, state will have more resources to give to poor. Moreover, the purchasing power of people increase; as a result, the surplus of money increase. As the gross domestic products increase, the dwindling economy will rise up.

4. Progressive tax generation:

Through zakat, progressive tax generation increase. In Pakistani system, progressive tax (zakat) on every item bought or sell is implemented. It is the system of Islam, in which zakat collection is made obligatory on ruler and state.

5. Battle of Abu Bakr with the dissenters of Khyber:

Hazrat Abu Bakr (PBUH) said: If it is entitled on a person even a string of camel in zakat, I would have taken that for the will of Allah.

Abu Bakr Siddiq did battle of Khayber with Beduins who dissented to pay Zakat. He defeated the Jews in Khayber. Resultantly, they started paying Zakat on one half of their produce for living in Muslim land.

6- A clause in Medina accord for Collection of Zakat:

According to Dr. Hamidullah, Medina accord has 56 clauses in which Zakat collection was considered the most significant pillar of economy. It was entitled for the people of Medina to pay Zakat to the poor of the territory. And who-ever revoke the accord, will revoke the Constitution and treaty. He will have to pay for it.

7- Compassion for poor through Zakat may reduce their grievances:

Zakat helps to reduce grievances of people. It generates compassion in people to have sympathy with the people in need of it. Zakat is an immediate source of bread and butter.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Zakat is a sacred institution through which not only economy of a country rise, but also the grievances of poor who are on the thin ice are addressed. Zakat helps to reduce poverty. It is the purity of wealth and a system to prevent hoarding. It prevents the stakeholders from indulging in unchecked materialism. The state and society must have collective responsibility to ensure its collection and distribution.

Question no. 2

How Prophet Muhammad PBUH is the perfect example for all of mankind? Elucidate.

I- Introduction:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the perfect example for all of mankind. According to Montgomery Watt, he was the most influential man of hundred most influential people of the world. He was the personality having all the characteristics of guidance for mankind. He spent an ideal life at home and outside. He was the leader of 29 battles, he gave the idea of peace during war and off war, he gave the ideals of compassion, sympathy, honesty, virtue, loyalty, truth and piety. He was followed across the Arabia as messenger of God. He was the richest of the richest person as messenger of God but he spent the simplest life and worked for humanity and his followers.

i- Individual life of Muhammad:

Muhammad (PBUH) had best model in Individualism. He spent a pious and virtuous life. In his early life his mother Amina died. He was brought up by his uncle Abu Talib. He suffered many grievous moments during his livelihood but stayed firm to the cause of Allah.

a- life with his wives:

He was very soft in his behaviors towards his wives. Hazrat Khadija was his first wife. He had three sons from her. Hazrat Ayesha was his youngest and youngest wife. He used to do justice to his wives and married to the ones who are widow and abandoned by society.

b- Behavior with his children:

He had very compassionate behavior with his children and grandsons (Hassan and Hussain). He taught them himself. Once Hazrat Fatima (daughter) asked him for a servant, he gave her the best gift in the form of

Tasbeeh of Allah Subhan Tallah.

c- Mercy towards other people:

People of Taif pelted stones on Muhammad, when he gone to preach them Islam. He was not cursed them rather prayed for their coming to true path. Non-believers gave testimony of his compassion and mercy.

ii- Muhammad (SAW) as peacemaker:

Muhammad (PBUH) established peace in the land of Arabia. He gave laws for prisoners of war, he gave laws for combatants and non-combatants.

a- Treaty of Hudaibiya: a signal for peace to pagans:

Muhammad did a treaty to establish peace with pagans of Makkah. It was also called pledge of 'Aqaba' or pledge of 'Tree'. In this treaty, he pledged to people of Makkah accepted all their demands and established peace in place of war btw Madinna and Makkah territory.

b- Resolved inter-Communal discords:

When Muslims came to Medina, Aws and Khazraj continued fighting. He dissolved conflicts between them and made Medina a constitutional state. He developed brotherly relationships between Ansar and Muhajireen. Medina was developed as a society.

c- He was sensitive to certain issues:

People came to him for justice and to have an honest judgement. For instance: One Beduin came to prophet about the birth of black child to his wife. He denied that he was his child. Prophet (PBUH) said "What colors your camels have?", he replied "Red and orange", prophet said, "from where it came?" he replied "It may come from its ancestors", prophet said, "then the child's color may come from its ancestors". I swore to Allah, that this is your child. In this way he resolved their dispute.

d- Laws of wars: Given by prophet

Prophet (PBUH) gave laws of war. He forgave prisoners of wars.

For Instance, he forgave Pows of Badar.

He forgave the beduin women 'Hinda' for chewing the liver and desecrating the dead body of Hazrat Hamza.

i- Rules for Combatants:

a- Do not slay their dead bodies

b- Do not sell their dead bodies. After

battle of Trench prophet was offered 1000 dirham for dead bodies return.

He said, he does not sell dead bodies.

c- Killing by tying and burning.

Quran even forbade killing a snake

after tying it to one of the verse

of Quran. It must be released

before killing.

d- Forbade the rogue attacks on people:

Hazrat Ali and Usman was killed

by rogue elements by stabbing on

their backs.

e- Forbade the prisoners of wars after

they accept Islam, pay ransom

and teach to the students

Rules for Non-combatants:

- a- Do not kill the people who do not fight with you.
- b- Do not burn the sacred institutions of pagans
 "Do not kill the monks in Monastries or Muslims in Mosques" Al-Quran
- c- Do not harm their land, their property, their wives, women and children
- d- Do not take their food items or any other material
 'Muslims are not even allowed to take milk of a milch cattle'
 - Abu-Baqr Siddique -
- e- Muslims are not allowed to enter houses of those they are fighting wars as they are as sacred as Muslim houses

II- Prophet (PBUH) as military strategists:

Prophet (PBUH) had great military strategy. He knows all the tactics of wars. His Commandership is as follows:

a- Arrange the military units in 'Safuf':

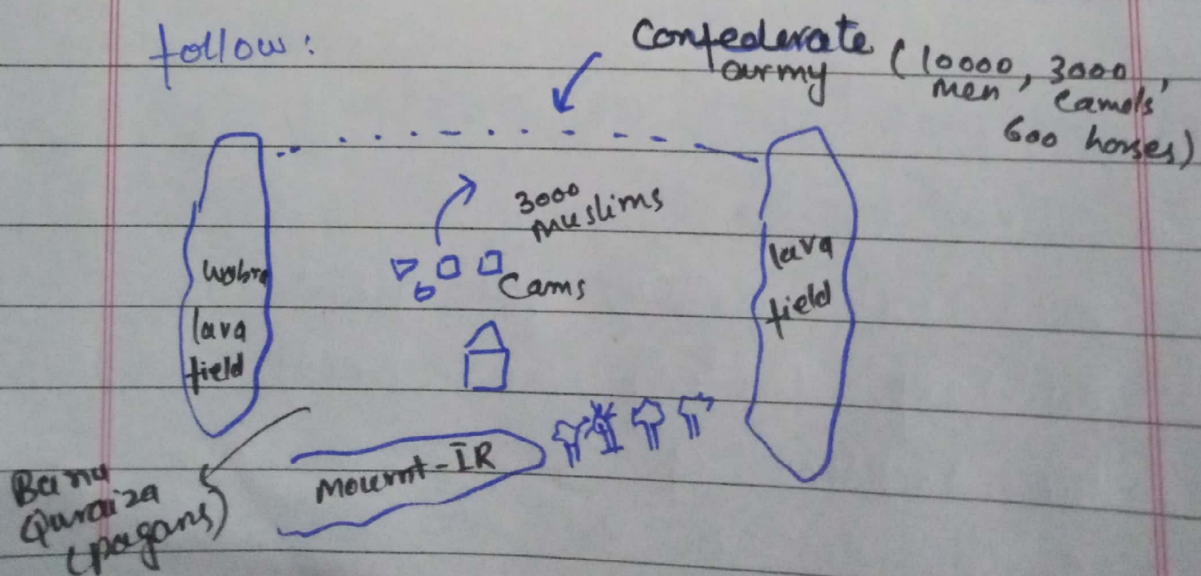
He divided the military units into five rows. The center, vanguard, re-arguard, right flank and left flank. Battalions are arranged separately.

b- military Camps are made:

He developed the military camps separately from the fighters. In those camps women who help the fighters were kept with medicines, food and armours.

c- Innovative war tactics: War of trench:

Hazrat Sulaiman Farsi advised prophet to dig trench across Medina to prevent pagans from entering Medina, the structure of it is as follow:



Muslims fought the battle of trench and won. Through effective war strategies, Muslims won many battles. Prophet was Commander of 27 battles whereas 29 battles were fought total. 9 were fought by prophet himself.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, the life of prophet is a blessing for Muslims who can get into right path of life by following it. He gave socio-political, economic, legal, religious models to the Muslims. So that, Muslims thrive in all sphere of life. Islam is a religion of mercy and spread compassion and exemplary models through life of Muhammad (PBUH)
