

Question #1:

Socioeconomic future of country
power sector reforms

Answer

Introduction

There are a lot of reforms that have been sketched over the course of past few years. All of the reforms aimed in those plans are linked directly to the socioeconomic future of Pakistan. From the adjustment of social turmoil to the solution of political and governance dysfunctions; and from the goals of a better environment to the hopes for new employment opportunities; everything about the power sector reforms is directly linked with socioeconomic future of the country - on this way the reforms of within the power sector picture the future of country with the colors that are withdrawn from today.

2- Key Reforms in the Power Sector of Pakistan

~~(i) Preventing the line losses~~

(i) Bridging the gap between the utilisation and production of electricity:

Pakistan's power sector suffers from a strange phenomenon where it is generating more electricity than it is utilising. It is evident from the fact that country's total need of electricity is around 38,000 MW while it generates 38,000 MW of electricity - on the process the excess electricity is lost. This loss has been made a key concern of all the debates over the reforms in power sector.

(ii) Preventing the line losses during the process of transmission of electricity

Pakistan also lags behind ~~the~~ in the field of the safe and efficient transmission of electricity. In fact, total line losses of the country are estimated to be around 17-20% - These losses are also aimed to be removed in order to

reform power sector of the country

(iii) Shifting to renewable energy sources from thermal energy:

Key focus of ~~the~~ power sector reforms is to minimize dependence on coal, gas, and crude oil for the production of electricity. Instead, ~~more~~ ~~renewable~~ renewable energy sources like hydroelectric, wind, and solar energy needs to be experimented. It will reduce the burden of expensive fuel on the country -

(iv) Incentivising front-line leaders for better policy solutions

Another area of experiment in order to improve power sector is ~~to~~ improving the policy decisions. In fact, the wrong policy decisions of the past like the Capacity Payment to Independent Power Producer (IPPs) ~~are~~ needs to be revised. Instead of paying for the generated power, government should pay for the utilisation -

(v) Improving industry to utilise more power

Currently the industrial sector of Pakistan is not fully established or operational - it utilises only 40-45% of total power generated - if the industrial sector is developed, country's capacity will enhance and economic losses can be prevented alongside industrial development -

How Reforms in Power Sector of Pakistan are linked to its Socioeconomic future

(i) Providing electricity for all of its population

Pakistan, despite being an industrialized country lacks in providing electricity to its whole population - World Bank estimates suggest that over 12 million in Pakistan do not have access to electricity - With reforms in power sector, Pakistan can modernize its population to the core

(ii) Creating employment opportunities for people by encouraging industrial development

Industry of Pakistan will be improved when power sector reforms will take place - This reform improvement will lead to countable employment opportunities for Pakistani worker and in turn, will reform the socioeconomic conditions -

(iii) Minimizing environmental threats by increasing utilisation of renewable energy

Power sector reforms will experiment with the renewable energy sources - This, in turn, will reduce the risks of environmental destruction -

As it was seen in floods of 2022, environmental threats can cause humongous loss for socioeconomic stature of a country - However, if power sector is reformed, the country will have a better environmental future and by the virtue of that, a better socioeconomic future -

(iv) Cheaper electricity costs
generating social harmony

Prices of electricity are always the topic of concern in the society of Pakistan. It has been observed in the July - Aug 2023 where people protested against price hike and social unrest was caused. However, if the reforms are implemented and the cost per unit of electricity is minimized, a social balance will be observed in Pakistan.

Conclusion

Power Sector of Pakistan was subjected to major reform initiatives that made it more viable. These reforms not only improve the power sector itself but actually define country's socioeconomic future and have the capacity to shape it.

Question 2

Losses and damages ...

Answer:

1- INTRODUCTION

Losses and Damages fund is a new framework that is a topic of discussion among major governments. The term was originated in Conference of Parties (COP-27) in 2022. It points towards the fund that was designed to help poor countries cope up with the losses caused by climate disasters. After its conception in COP-27, it was finally materialized in COP-28. Although the contributions of the developed nations for the fund are far from being sufficient, yet it ~~has~~ emerges as the first ray of hope for developing nations. Pakistan itself has a lot to fetch from the fund including risk-mitigation, technical assistance, and global leadership. On this way, ~~COP-28~~ the fund has a ~~good~~ great potential for future.

2- Conceptual understanding of "Losses and Damages" Fund

(i) The necessity for the Creation of Fund

On the year 2022, world has seen disastrous effects of climate change directly influence humanity. Floods in Pakistan, heatwaves in Europe, glacial melting and various other phenomena helped humanity realize how far they have come. Hence, it entailed a fund from where the vulnerable nations can cope up with risks of climate change.

(ii) Conceptualization of Losses and Damages Fund at Cop-27

At Cop-27 that happened on November 2022, a rough sketch was drawn of a hypothetical fund that could be designed to help poor countries come up with a solution for their climate. It resulted in the idea of Losses and Damages Fund-

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ii) Implementation of the idea of the fund in COP-28

After its conceptualization in COP-27, it was finally materialized in COP-28. In fact, it was the first ever achievement of the COP and was created on very first day of the meeting, pointing towards the willingness of global community to participate in the practice.

i) Key Features of "Losses and Damages Fund"

The fund, after implementation, collected bids from the developed nations to assist poor countries. It generated 700 million dollars collectively to be utilized to achieved the goals of the fund. On this way, ~~bid for~~ attracting bids and combining them to help the poor countries to mitigate their losses is one of the main aim of feature of the "Losses and Damages Fund" -

3- Opportunities of Materialization of "Losses and Damages" Fund : A critical Analysis

(i) Collected Amount Falling Short of the Required amount for Losses' mitigation

The amount generated in COP-28 was \$700 million. However, UNFCC estimates the total need for the actual mitigation of losses to be ~~any~~ anywhere from \$100 billion to \$600 billion. This ^{collected} amount is only 0.2% of the amount that is required and it raised reservations among analysts.

(ii) Lack of willingness of few nations to contribute

As some nations came forward and promised to help poor countries, major powers stayed behind and did not help at all. United States, who is a top contributor of global greenhouse gas emissions, have contributed only \$17 million, a mere 10% of what European Union raised. This lack of ~~the~~ intent points towards a

grim future.

(iii) Better to Initiate Something than not ~~at~~ even starting:
A positive picture of the Fund

Despite lacking in the idols set for the fund earlier, it still is a good start. In the past, funds were ^{not} even agreed upon. For example, USA withdrew from Paris Climate Agreement which require somewhat similar framework. However, the immediate materialization of the fund does ~~easy~~ some hope and there is always ~~some~~ a room for improvement.

(iv) Existence of a formal platform for developing and poor nations to go

Another achievement of the fund is the institutionalized fulfilment of the needs of poor nation getting affected from climate change. They do not need to go ~~from~~ for scattered help that is in pieces and now have a platform where their needs will be discussed and fulfilled.

4- Ways in which Pakistan can benefit from "Losses and Damages" Fund:

(i) Fulfilling the needs raised after 2022 floods

Pakistan witnessed the worst floods of its history. They left the country with humanitarian losses as well as economic ones. World Bank estimates total need of the funds to be around \$10 billion. These losses can be mitigated only if the country consults losses and damages fund as current economic state of the country does not allow a recovery on its own.

(ii) Providing a platform for Collaboration against the Climate war

Pakistan has aimed to fight the climate disaster by the strategy of collaboration. It has been mentioned in country's first ever National Adaptation Policy that necessitates collaboration in order to cope well with climate change. The global forum

will allow ~~countries~~ ^{Pakistan} to collaborate with global community, non-governmental organizations, climate activists, donors, and others who will support its aim for fostering collaboration.

viii) An opportunity for the leadership in humanity's war against climate change

Floods, glacial melting, heat waves, and other impacts of climate change were observed in Pakistan with an intensity greater than anywhere else. This has put the country in the frontline of the war against climate change - in this way, Pakistan can become a key player who determines the shape of the world in its struggle, manifested by its participation in losses and damages fund.

5- Conclusion

Losses and Damages Fund is a platform created by global community to help poor nations overcome the ~~benefits~~ losses of climate change.

M T W T F S

DATE: ___/___/___

Although it does have structural
dysfunctionalities right now but
there is a hope for improvement -
Not only it benefits poor
countries but it also come up
with benefits for Pakistan that
need to be cherished and
have the potential to play
a huge role for the country -