

# Current Affairs

## Subjective Part

### Q no. 6 . Analysis of Statement & Recommendations:

In the year 2022-23, 2500 MW of electricity was produced from local coal, around 6500 MW of electricity was produced from imported coal. Similarly the maximum amount of electricity was manufactured from imported LNG & diesel.

In Pakistan, MOL, POL are the local oil companies, otherwise maximum amount of Oil is imported by PSO and then redistributed. If the oil has to be refined, it's sent to Attock & Hub refinery and can only be refined upto 36%. rest is discarded. The refinery capacity of China & US is around 85% and 90%. However that's not the case in Pakistan.

The prices of electricity is decided by NEPRA and in recent 3 years has become tripled. Our price of electricity is 30% more as compared to Bangladesh and India. According to our Prime Minister, Recently

it is the highest price in the world. The main reason for such an increase in electricity price are expensive agreements done with IPPs. Most of the IPPs were set up in 1994, 2005, 2011 & 2015.

In order to encourage the setup of IPPs incentives were given to the power setups. Here the problem of capacity payments arises. Suppose the unit was set up for 1000 MW. If the agreement was made for 100 MW in summer, 800 MW in winter then we have to pay the price whether they generate electricity or not. The agreement with most of the IPPs were in dollars instead of PKR and were not for a set time period. And most of the 1994s IPPs were run with diesel which is comparatively an expensive fuel as well.

That's why Pakistan has now an installed capacity of 42000 MW while the requirement is quite less, so Pakistan has to make quite high payments for the IPPs that are not even generating a single unit of electricity.

Six of the highest paid IPPs are owned by a former minister of PTI, few IPPs are owned by Jahangi, Tareen, Hamza Shehbaz. Millions of PKR are paid to these IPPs setup and Pakistan is now in a huge debt because of this.

Even after the generation of electricity, our distribution lines losses are around 17-20% which further increases the cost of electricity. These lines if renewed can decrease the loss but it's an expensive process to undertake. The distribution companies WESCO, IESCO, FESCO cannot change the lines.

Another problem is the persistent loadshedding in rural and urban areas - It's around 12 hours in rural areas and 6-4 hours in urban areas which causes a lot of disturbance in the daily lives of people.

If we evaluate where the electricity is generated, 80% of electricity comes from hydrocarbons i.e. oil, gas, coal and around 20% comes from

Pakistan's hydroelectric projects  
e.g. Mangla, Tarbela dams.

The impacts of such prices are  
a lot :

- Our Textile industry is the one which is most affected by the price hike. The products are around 20-30% more expensive than India & Bangladesh and thus are not able to compete in the global market.
- Our agriculture sector is also severely affected by the high prices and persistent loadshedding. The turbines are generally dependant on electricity and will only work if there is no loadshedding.
- The business & markets are affected by high prices. Due to increase price of electricity, the prices of commodities are also raised, which reduces the purchase power of the consumer and thus affects the business.
- Similarly the daily life of people is also severely affected by the persistent loadshedding and expensive

electricity. Pakistan is a country in which 37-40% people live below the poverty line thus people are not able to bear the cost of electricity.

Some Recommendations to address these issues are as follows:

- 1) The Agreements of IPPs should be renegotiated. If the time period is not set then generally after 10y the agreement can be done again. The agreement should be now to only pay in PKR and capacity payments should be finished. Pakistan should only pay to what it buys. Even the old agreement's renegotiation was delayed by several years which leads to loss of millions of PKR, this issue should be dealt with seriously.
- 2) New hydroelectric power plants should be setup as they generate the cheapest electricity. Recently dams are being built on Kotbala, Diamer. Similarly the coal based power

Plants should be based on local coal rather than imported one. Under CPEC projects, 4 setups of 320 MW were setup. This would reduce the cost of electricity.

3) Electricity should be generated by renewable energy resources e.g Solar, Wind Electricity generation setup should be used to generate electricity. These will reduce the environmental pollution and decrease the price of electricity as well.

4) New agreements for transmission lines should be done like Mayra Distribution Lines setup to reduce line losses.

5) No department should be given free or subsidized electricity. Bills should be taken from all people to reduce the burden on the population.

6) Strict punishments must be given to those who are involved in electricity theft to reduce its instance as well.

Qno 8. The Chances of two state solution or would Israel continue as an Apartheid state,

In 1914, in the Balfour declaration, this area was occupied by Great Britain and they decided for the formation of Israel ~~but~~ ~~be~~ between the Red and the Mediterranean sea.

In 1948, the UN also passed the resolution of a two state solution. The area was divided between Israel and Palestine. Gaza, Jerusalem, and around 40% area was supposed to be a part of Palestine. Rest of it was to be a part of Israel.

From 1948-67, the Jews purchased the land from the Palestinian Muslims.

However after 1967, they forcefully took the land from the Muslims. They were driven out of their homes. The court always used to favour Jews. The Muslims felt like second class citizens in their home country. Israel started inhabiting Jews forcefully in the region. The recent example of Sheikh Jarrah is an example where

almost 5,00,000 Jews have inhabited the area.

The Muslims living in that area are given separate identity cards, their cars have different plates, the roads are separately allocated. They are not allowed to pass peacefully.

Gaza is surrounded from one side by the sea, Israel has complete hold on that land and controls the coastal areas. While the crossing to Egypt and Israel is also controlled by them.

US supports the atrocities by Israel - It provides them with the weapons, Israel is also supported by UK, France, Germany.

Most of the countries including South Africa, Ireland, Spain, Muslim countries support the two state solution.

However Israel does not want this solution. It wants the formation of 'Greater Israel'. Netanyahu has bombed several



areas of Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen for this reason.

The Muslims have fought for many years and currently there are two major political parties there. PLA (Palestinian Liberation Authority) (formerly known as PLO) has authority in West Bank. It used to be a military organization but now supports the two state solution.

Hamas has the political authority in Gaza, it completely disagrees with the two state solution and only wants the formation of Palestine.

On Recent Oct 23, Tent Day celebration in Israel, Hamas soldiers ~~and~~ entered into Israel, killed around 1500 people and around 250 were kidnapped to Palestine. This led to a start of a major war. IDF soldiers up till now have killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, 50% of them are women and children, millions of people have been displaced. The North and Central Gaza has been completely destroyed. Israel has stopped the medicine, food

from reaching Palestine. Almost all the educational institutes, hospitals, residential buildings have been destroyed.

Gaza has a network of tunnels that Hamas has built to safeguard itself from Israeli soldiers. As they don't know what's inside so Hamas soldiers have an advantage in the whole scenario. These network of tunnels are so big that IDF soldiers will have to displace all the Palestinians and still it would be hard to destroy this network of tunnels.

This war has now continued for such a long time and the Palestinians are still fighting for their right to exist in a peaceful state. Clearly Netanyahu wants the continuation of Israel as a Apartheid state but then its ~~an~~ a war with no end in sight.

Qno. 7. Decision of ICJ & Response of US Govt, Impact with Arab world :-

In Oct'23, on tent day celebration in Israel, Hamas soldiers crossed the border and killed about 1500 Israeli and 250-200 people were held as captives.

This response was due to the way Israel has been treating the muslims since 1948. They have been forcefully evacuated from their homes, they are treated as second class citizens. They have separate identity cards, separate lanes on roads and separate plates on cars. They Israelis have forcefully inhabited various areas that were initially given to Palestine according to the UN Resolution 1948 - Recent example of this is Sheikh Jarrah, where 5,00,000 jews have been forcefully inhabited. The courts always give their decision in favour of jews which leads to further hatred.

This recent onslaught of Palestinians has killed about 40,000 Palestinians and displaced millions from their homes. North & Central Gaza

have been completely destroyed. The educational institutes and (schools) and hospitals have been destroyed. Food, medicines, aid is not allowed to reach the people.

After this whole situation, South Africa filed a petition in the International Court of Justice for war crimes. All the Muslim countries also supported South Africa. The ICJ has ordered Israel to ~~stop~~ stop but as the decision is non-binding, Netanyahu is not stopping this crime.

US also ~~is~~ is supporting the war crimes of Israel. Guns and all other military equipment is supplied by US, UK, France, Germany to Israel. All the air defences are also given by these states. It's continuously supporting Israel and even in the elections, the Democrats and Republicans show full support for Israel despite their war crimes.

All the Muslim countries support the two state solution for Israel and Palestine

according to the UN Resolution of 1948. Israel had started the Abrahamic accords to build relations with the Arab world (UAE, Sudan, Oman, Bahrain). The Abrahamic accords focused on the good relations between Israel and Muslims, it focused on how historically Muslims and Jews always had good relations. They were even trying to normalize the relations with Saudi Arab.

However, the recent atrocities that Israel committed lead to a change in response of the Arab world.

Saudi Arab has now refused to normalize ties with Israel. Similarly many Arab countries have also supported the rights of Palestinians in this regard.

Because of the onslaught, the nonstate actors in the region Hezbollah and Houthis of Yemen have also took part in the war.

The Houthis generally use missiles from Yemen and Hezbollah fire from Lebanon, although most of the missiles are intercepted by

The Iran dome or one destroyed by Britain. They are still showing support for Palestine.

Iran, backed by Russia, although is a Shia country, is supporting a Sunni Group Hamas for its right to defend itself.

Uptil now many leaders of Hamas: Ismail Haniyeh, Yahya Sinwar, Hezbollah leaders Haman Nourallah have been killed by Israel but still they are continuing their fights.

The Arabs are in support of Palestine and the chances of normalisation of relations with Israel have been quite reduced by this recent war.