

Q. 3

### Introduction:

In 1917, Balfour declaration issued. Balfour announced to establish Jews state between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean sea.

In 1948, UN security council passed "two-state solution" resolution.

According to this resolution, there will be two states between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean sea i.e. Israel and

Palestine. However, ~~from~~ since 1967

Israel has been illegally captured the land of Palestine.

According to the two-state solution, west bank, Gaza, and

east Jerusalem are part of the Palestine. But Israel has

illegally captured east Jerusalem and 40% + territory of west

bank. There has been 500,000 plus Jews being settled in west bank.

Israel has been conducting war crimes in Gaza too. Despite the

protests from international public, Israel is ~~not~~ carrying out

war crimes in Palestine since

October 2023. International Court of Justice also warned and ordered

Israel to refrain from war

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crimes. However, Israel is not ready to accept two-state solution and it is continuously committing war crimes against Palestine. It will continue as apartheid state due to following reasons:

i There is only one law applied in Israel and Palestine that is Jews law:

There is only one law applied in Israel and Palestine that is Jews law. Muslims do not have the right of ownership of land. Land belongs to Jews. They have every right to pull out muslims from respective territories whenever they want. There is normal procedure that is being adopted i.e. court gives a decision in favour of government and the government forced the Muslims to evacuate. In conclusion, Muslims are not given any security from law and Jews have an upper hand. They want to have "Greater Israel" and want to have only one state between Jordan river and Mediterranean sea i.e. Israel, reflecting the "two-state

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Solution" resolution passed by the United Nations.

ii Gaza being the largest open air prison in the world:

Gaza is called the largest open air prison in the world as the west of Gaza is adjacent to the Mediterranean Sea while Israel's navy is all over there in the Mediterranean Sea. Secondly, east and north Gaza is bordered with Israel. Legally there are three crossings along this border but Palestinians can not escape from this border. Thirdly, south of Gaza is bordered with Egypt but there is only one crossing there which is called Rafah crossing. Hence, there is no way of Palestinians to escape and Israeli forces are open to commit war crimes in the region.

iii US backing:

Israel is not ready to accept the United Nations resolution of two-state solution and committing war crimes in Palestine. Israel is also not

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obeying the order of International Court of Justice (ICTJ). Moreover, protests from different countries against the war crimes could not stop Israel. This is only because US is supporting Israel due to number of reasons. The main reason is incoming elections of the US. There is a strong Israeli lobby in the US. This lobby provides funds for election campaigns and helps to win the presidential elections of the US. Moreover, the US is continuously selling weapons to Israel which it is using to commit war crimes in Gaza. Despite, recently three European countries have recommended the "two-state solution" to bring peace in the middle East, Israel is not stopping from its heinous activities just because of the US backing. The US has the control over geopolitics and is also the permanent member of the United Nations which has Veto Power. Thus, it is concluded that ~~the~~ Israel will continue as Apartheid.

State .

iv Leadership Crises in Palestine:

One of the reasons of weakening of Palestine is that there is no unified leadership in Palestine. There are two organization; one is Palestine Liberation Army while the other one is Hamas. Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) is a political party that is in favour of two-state solution while Hamas which is founder of Gaza and is strong political party that usually wins the elections is against the notion of two-state solution. According to Hamas there should only one state between the Jordan river and Mediterranean sea. That is why Palestine is in leadership crises and it is unable to negotiate with Israel.

v The ideal of Greater Israel:  
Israel is adopting the ideology called "the Greater Israel". Netanyahu, the current prime minister of the Israel, is provoking

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This ideology of "The Greater Israel" to gain support from the people of Israel in order to hide his corruption and to gain popularity. Netanyahu will never be agree to adopt two-state solution and Israel will continue as Apartheid state.

vi Escalation of the war.  
Israel has launched state terrorism against Gaza by jet bombardments, missiles strikes, artillery fires and armoured core. More than 90% of buildings of Gaza has destroyed. These buildings include hospitals, churches, mosques and educational institutes. More than ~~40%~~ 40,000 people have killed by the Israeli forces including children, women & journalists and doctors since October 2023. Hamas and Israel war would not end any soon. The non-state actors in Middle East have started attacking Israel. Hezbollah in Lebanon attacks on Israel, Houthis in Yemen attacks on Israel,

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The US, UK and Israel are intercepting these attacks and Israel is attacking back on Lebanon and Yemen. In the same way, tensions between Iran and Israel are increasing. There are concerns that Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear facilities can create havoc in the region. That's why international scholars and leaders are raising concerns over the tension between Iran and Israel.

In conclusion, one can say that there is no possibility of implementation of two-state solution to bring peace in the Middle East. Israel will continue war crimes in Palestine with the help of global power. Despite media coverage and protests from all over the world against the war crimes, Israel is not stopping from its heinous crimes.

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Q. 6

Pakistan has been facing multiple serious challenges such as political instability, constitutional crises, terrorism, and economic crises.

One of the serious crises face by the state is energy crisis. Energy crises include electricity loadshedding and mounting electricity bills. The electricity prices hike is due to expensive agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), overwhelming dependency on Hydrocarbons (HCs), line and other losses in transmission and distribution sector. Energy crisis have far reaching repercussions on industry, domestic and other crucial sectors. There is an urgent need of addressing energy crisis and controlling price hike of electricity to reduce the negative effects on economy of the country and to reduce inflation in the country.

There are following reasons of the price hike in electricity bills :-



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1. expensive agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs):  
Independent Power Producers (IPPs) or private sector producers generate electricity primarily from hydrocarbon (HC) sources. These IPPs were established in 1994, 2005, 2011, and 2014, with additional installations made to meet the increasing electricity demand. One of the main reasons for high electricity costs is the capacity payments made to these IPPs. During summer, demand peaks - for instance, in July 2023, electricity demand reached 28,000 MW. In contrast, this demand drops by 50% in winter. However, the agreements with IPPs are based on maximum demand requirements. Furthermore, all payments to IPPs are made in dollars while foreign-owned IPPs must be paid in dollars, local IPPs should ideally be paid in PKR. Payment in dollars to these IPPs is main reason of price hike in electricity bills.

2. → Overwhelming dependency on hydrocarbons. Pakistan generates more than 60% electricity through hydrocarbons. Such as diesel, liquefied natural

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Gas (LNG), and coal. Pakistan imports these hydrocarbons in dollars. As Pakistani rupee is devalued against dollar, import of these hydrocarbons is causing huge hike in price of electricity bills.

Moreover, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has further repercussions on the prices of hydrocarbons due to sanctions on Russia. Pakistan's overwhelming dependency on hydrocarbons is leading it towards energy crisis.

iii Line and other losses in the transmission of electricity:

In Pakistan there is outdated infrastructure for the transmission of electricity. This old and outdated infrastructure causes huge electricity losses during transmission. That is why there is electricity bill hike.

All of those reasons of price hike in electricity bills have far reaching impacts on industry, domestic and other crucial sectors.

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i Implications on Industry:

As industries require electricity for their functioning and manufacturing processes, price hike in electricity bills affects negatively these industries, leading to burdening these industries. Small-scale industries often face more challenges to cope up with these type of energy crisis, ultimately, leading towards closure of the industries. These closures left many people unemployed. Moreover, production of necessary goods reduce. These goods then need to be imported in dollars. Hence, country reserves of dollars decrease, leading to inflation in the country. That is how price hike in electricity bills has repercussions on economy condition of the country.

ii Effects on Domestic level:

More than 40% of the income of the middle class family has been consuming in payment of electricity bills due to unprecedented hike in electricity bills. This affects the budget of the

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families. To cope up with this challenges, families adopt different strategies. often families ~~are forced~~ to become unable to pay the tuition fees of their children, leading to educational losses. Routine life of families becomes completely disturbed, leading to civil unrest and ultimately protests occur in the country, further hindering the economic activities.

iii Set back for agriculture: More than 30% of the agriculture of Pakistan is based on tube wells and digwells. Majority of these tube wells are powered by electricity. The more the price hike, the more set back for agriculture. The cost of agricultural products rises with the increase in the price of electricity.

In the same way, other crucial sectors of the country face major challenges due to the price hike of electricity. There is an urgent need to solve this issue.

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Some of the recommendations to cope up with the price hike in electricity bills are given below:

i Renegotiation of agreements with IPPs:

The agreements with Independent Power Producers should have been renegotiated long ago, specially those signed in 1986, 1991, 1994, 2002, 2005. Unfortunately, successive governments delayed this process. It was not until 2020 that those agreements were renegotiated, eliminating capacity payment issue and making sure to pay to local IPPs in rupees rather than in dollars.

This renegotiation solved the 40% of the issue. The majority of the IPPs were installed in 2011 and 2014, these can not be renegotiated until 2028. Successive governments should make sure that these agreements are renegotiated well in time.

ii Install local and cheaper electricity projects:  
Governments need to install more and more local and cheaper electricity projects to meet up the electricity demand of the country. In this way, expensive electricity bills can be made cheaper. As payments will be in PKR. Energy policy 2030 already focusing on indigenization of electricity production, which is a good step. Moreover, the government needs to focus on producing electricity from local coal of Thar. The state needs to be less dependent on imported hydrocarbons for electricity generation.

iii Investment in renewable energy sources:

The government needs to shift its policy for the production of electricity. It needs to invest in renewable sources of energy such as solar power, wind energy, hydropower and geothermal and biomass.

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Solar Power is abundant and solar panels can generate significant clean energy. In the same way, harnessing wind power to produce electricity is a step recommended to produce clean energy and to reduce dependency on hydrocarbons. Moreover, hydroelectric power from dams or small-scale hydropower plants can provide a steady energy supply.

iv Updating of transmission lines:  
Though it is an expensive phenomenon but the country is in dire need to revamp its transmission lines. Outdated transmission lines are causing huge electricity losses. This is the major issue the country is facing in regard of electricity crisis.

In conclusion, Pakistan is facing challenges due to hike in electricity bills from domestic to industrial life, everybody is affected. These challenges can be resolved by

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renegotiation with IPPs agreements,  
investing in renewable energy  
resources, installing local  
power producers, and by  
updating transmission lines..  
Through these steps,  
the country will be able to  
provide cheaper electricity  
to its citizens and  
only then Pakistan can  
progress economically.