

Criminology

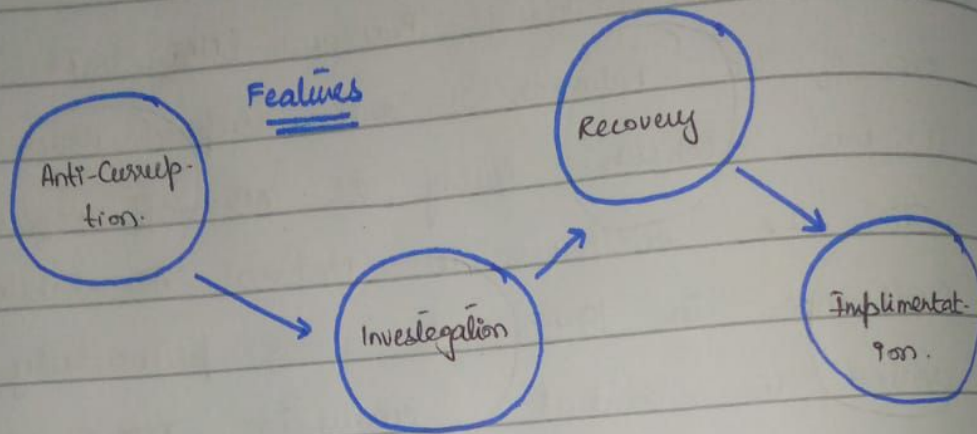
Q.8 Write note on NAB --- of Pakistan:

NAB : Introduction

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is one of the Pakistan's anti-corruption watchdog; It was established during the Mushraff regime under the ordinance i.e. National Accountability Ordinance in 1999. It was particularly created to combat corruption, recover the looted wealth and ensure transparency and accountability in public life. The Head Quarter of NAB is in Islamabad. It has 4 regional offices in all 4 provinces' capital city and 3 satellite offices in Multan, Sakhar and Rawal Pindi. All the offices function according to NAO, 1999 which was later revised and renewed in 2002 with the addition of NACS i.e. National Anti-Corruption Strategy. After a lot of analysis, Chairman NAB acts as the head of the department who has all the rights like file reference, drop case, pre-bargain, etc.

Key Features of NAB:

NAB was established to eradicate the white color crimes, particularly corruption from the society. It has four key features:



1) Anti-corruption:

One of the key features of NAB is to eradicate corruption and the corrupt practices from Pakistan. Also to punish those who commit such crime, held them accountable for their wrong doing.

2) Investigation of cases.

Using DIPS strategy it investigates the criminal cases.

D = Detection

I = Investigation

P = Prosecution

S = Speedy disposal of cases.

This whole process is carried out against crimes such as:

- 1) Corruption
- 2) Criminal practices.
- 3) Misuse and abuse of Powers.
- 4) Embezzlement i.e. misappropriation of property,
to name a few.

3) Recovery:

Another key feature is that NAB aims to recover all the looted wealth from different institutions like.

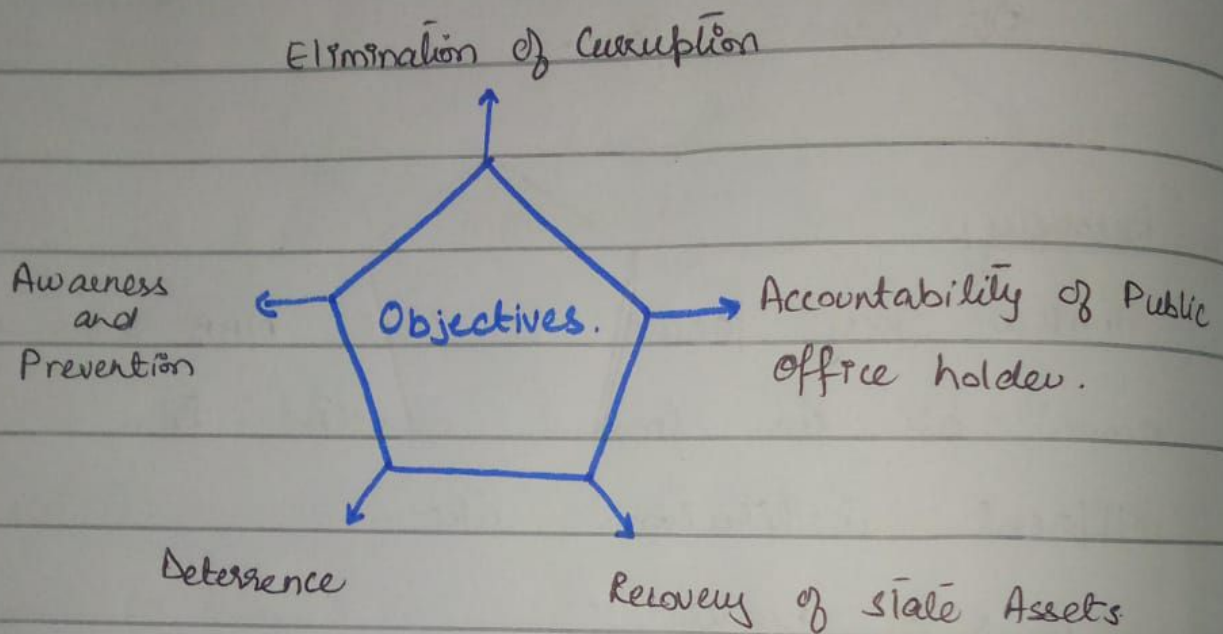
- 1) Banks.
- 2) Government and other agencies.
- 3) DFIs (Development Finance Banks).

4) Implementation:

Implementation is NAB's fourth key feature in which it aims to implement such policies to raise awareness, prevention, monitoring and combating the corruption and corrupt practice by effective measures.

Objectives of NAB:

The key objectives of NAB are pre-determined in NACS, 2002. The core objectives are:



1). Elimination of Corruption

To erradicate corruption and corrupt practices from all public institutions and offices. since the slogan of NAB is

"Corruption Free Pakistan".

2) Accountability of Public Office Holders:
To investigate and prosecute cases of corruption against elite people, bureaucrats, politicians.

3) Recovery of State Asset:

To recover the looted wealth, public funds and assets acquired through corrupt practices.

4) Deterrence:

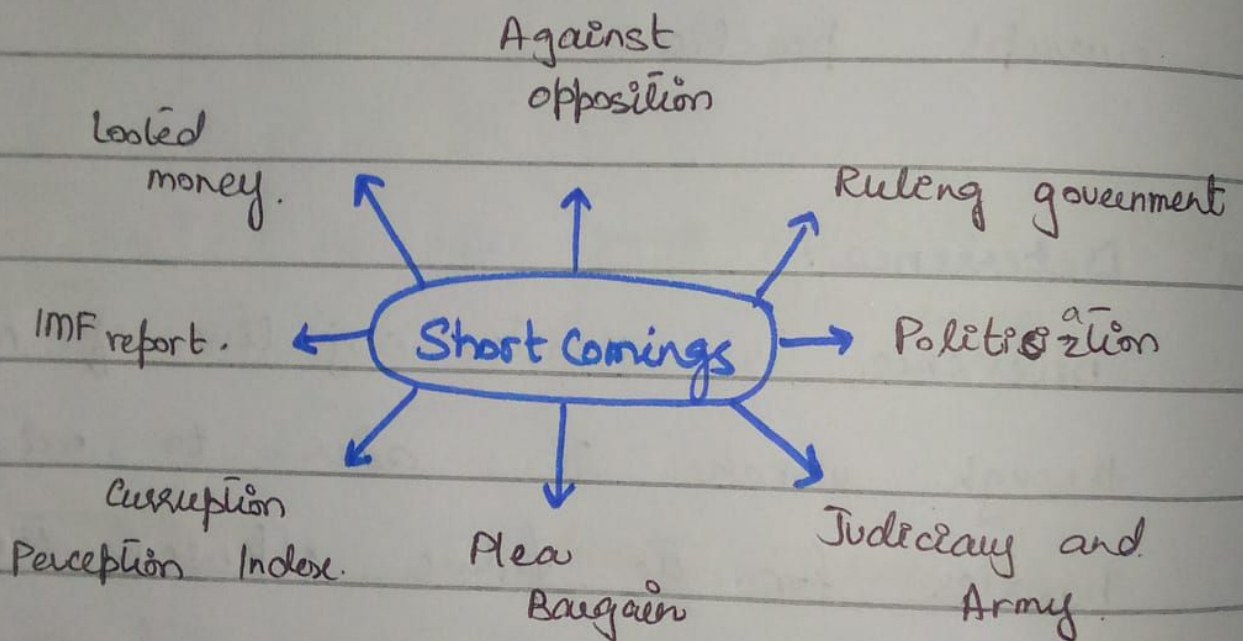
Deterrence is another objective of NAB. through which it aims to raise hurdles for the future offenses through strict rules, regulations and punishment strategies.

5) Awareness and Prevention:

To halt future offenses, NAB aims to enhance awareness for the prevention of future corruption crimes through programs, campaigns, media, etc.

Shortcomings of ^ANAB :

Critiques are of the view that creation of NAB institute is one of the wise decision. but due to its ineffective policies and external interventions, it failed to achieve its core objective. Some major shortcomings are:



1) Politicization of NAB:

Although such accountability institutions should be free and independent in their practices but in case of Pakistan this is not true and possible. NAB is highly criticized owing to high external influence resulting in deviation from its core objectives.

2) Against Opposition:

It has been highly observed that in Pakistan, NAB is mostly used for against opposition party. All the old corruption cases are to be investigated and then are used to prosecute and punish the offenders.

3) Ruling Government:

One of the core short coming of NAB is that it fails to function against the ruling government due to high politicization of the institute. Thus leaving behind its objective of establishing 'Rule of law' in the country.

4) Judiciary and Army:

Commonly, everyone should be made accountable to such institutes but in Pakistan, Judiciary and Army is exempted from such agency. They have their own accountability procedures.

5) Plea Bargain

One of the highly criticized action of NAB is its Plea Bargain. According to section 5 of NAO, 1999 if any person caught in corruption case, using the leverage of section 5, he could be made liable to return a portion of looted wealth and not the complete amount. By doing so, person would be free from further prosecution. Result is not the deterrence of future crime but paving way for other offenders.

6) Corruption Perception Index:

The NAB was established in 1999 to combat corruption and to minimize its chances. But according to Corruption Perception Index, it has failed to do so.

The corruption index is same now as it was in the past. pushing Pakistan to further decline. and bankruptcy.

7) Looted money:

One of short coming of NAB is that it failed to recover the looted money. even not half of the wealth leaving behind the whole society as victim. Due to this very reason Pakistan is moving towards decline day by day. According to NAB's own Ex. Min. Chairman almost 18^m bn of wealth leaks out daily due to corruption in Pakistan.

8) IMF Report, Nov 2025.

As of IMF report November 2025, Pakistan is among the most corrupt countries of the world, which hinders its progress alot. Since it was 25th time Pakistan asked for financial aid from IMF. It is a time of great worry for the whole nation specially the ruling class of society.

Conclusion:

National Accountability Bureau was established in 1999 to combat the raising corruption and corrupt practices in Pakistan. It functions according to NAO, 1999. Its core objectives are to minimise corruption and recover all the lost wealth from the country. But due to its inefficiency and external influence, it has failed to achieve its aim for which it was made.