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Question 3:

Federal structure and Parliamentary form of govt are most appropriate system for Pakistan. Discuss.

Introduction :

Since independence, Pakistan has been in search of appropriate governance system and form of government. It took three constitutions to reach the consensus.

Pakistan's governance system is based on federalism with a parliamentary form of government. These systems were chosen to reflect with country's diverse ethnic, linguistic and regional identities in a way that it aligns with democratic values. These factors make federal structure and parliamentary form of government as most appropriate systems.

Federal Structure in Pakistan :

Federal structure is that form of governance system in which power is divided between central government

and constituent units in order to ensure representation from all parts of the country. In Pakistan, the constitution of 1973 establishes federalism as the foundational principle of governance.

Importance of Federalism for Pakistan

In a country like Pakistan where people belongs to different ethnic groups, it is important to give every ethnic group their fair share.

i) Ethnic and Regional Diversity:

Pakistan comprises multiple ethnic groups, languages and cultural identities. From Karachi to Khyber, the language changes after every district. The issues also vary from one group to other. Sindh, Punjab, KPK and Balochistan have distinct socio-political dynamics. The federal system allows equal representation of these region in Senate which makes every region's voice recognizable.

ii) Decentralisation of Power:

Federal system focuses on decentralization of power among provinces.

It helps reduce over-centralization. It is done by empowering provincial governments to make decisions on key matters like health, education and resource management.

Provincial governments are solely responsible for the development of their respective provinces.

iii) Economic and resource distribution:

Federalism allows equitable economic and resource distribution among centre and provinces. It facilitates distribution of resources through mechanisms like National Finance Commission (NFC). It helps province to initiate developmental programs on their own rather than waiting for federal government to initiate.

iv) Conflict Resolution among provinces

Federalism reduces the chances of conflict especially separatist elements by giving power to local people. Furthermore, federal government can also act as mediator between provincial issues like water issue or food shortage.

Parliamentary Form of Government

1) Executive Accountability:

The executive is drawn from parliament. In Pakistan, executive include Prime Minister and cabinet. They are accountable to parliament which is chosen by people of Pakistan. This fosters greater transparency and responsiveness.

2) Majority Rule

Parliamentary system ensures democratic representation because decisions are made based on majority votes. It provides inclusivity for people belonging to any part of country.

Suitability for Pakistan:

- 1) Inclusion and Representation
- 2) Avoidance of Autocracy
- 3) Alignment with diversity
- 4) Enhances/promotes democratic ideals
- 5) Less burden on federal government