

PART-I: MCQ

- 1 (B) Two
- 2 (B) China - Pakistan B2B match making
- 3 (D) Microsoft
- 4 (A) Mr. Khusrav Nozri
- 5 (B) November 5, 2024
- 6 (A) Zheng li
- 7 (B) Kazan
- 8 (C) 15000
- 9 (D) Uzbekistan.
- 10 (B) Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now
- 11 (C) ~~Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now~~ Operation Golden
- 12 (C) 14 December 2024
- 13 (A) National development complex
- 14 (A) Tencent
- 15 (D) Portugal
- 16 (B) Eastern Africa
- 17 (A) PRSC-EO1
- 18 (B) Uraam Pakistan:
- 19 (C) 925
- 20 (D) Nine

Q #3:

BURDEN OF STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES ON BUDGET

1 INTRODUCTION:

State owned enterprises are assets of the state. These enterprises are either owned for commercial purposes or non commercial. Although few SOEs are subsidiaries as well. There are total 206 SOEs operating in the country. 88 of them are for commercial purposes. Commercial state owned enterprises are earning substantial amount across the globe. Unfortunately, the state owned enterprises in Pakistan are not meeting the set target. Though a few enterprises are surviving with their consumption and utilities, but most of the SOEs are on decline. Mismanagement, corrupt practices and inefficient policies are primarily causing this huge loss. Despite, this all still a least option for privatization is available to state.

STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES

WHY SHOULD BE
PRIVATIZED

HOW TO
PRIVATIZE SOEs

Financial losses

Mismanagement

Lack of policy
making
effectively.

Subsidies

Holistic
approach

Public-
Private
Partnerships

2 WHY SOES SHOULD BE PRIVATIZED

Since inception Pakistan facing budgetary crisis. These crisis are not by nature, but human inefficiencies are the root causes of these crises. Seeing these financial problems Pakistan went to IMF program on 1950 to maintain financial losses and meet the required target. The recent 8³⁰⁰ IMF program shows Pakistan still in the dream of home grown economy. However, to maintain the socio-political economical inequalities Pakistan went to enterprises policy. Currently, Pakistan have 206 state owned enterprises, in which 45 are for the non-commercial purposes, to meet the social welfare mandates along with 45 Non commercial SOES Pakistan have 88 SOES for commercial purposes. Unfortunately, these SOES also failed to turn the homegrown economy dream to reality.

The failure of SOEs is not the issue of nature, rather it is human failure. Here are some reasons, why SOEs should be privatized:

1:

Financial losses of state owned Enterprises.

Almost, commercial SOEs are on losses despite being subsidised by state they are failed to manage their own utilities. For instance Energy Sector; pre dominantly Energy Sector is top of the list of deficient SOEs. Energy Sector facing almost 315 billion rupees losses a year. Pakistan have almost 22 SOEs in Energy sector. Not only Energy sector but Pakistan airline (PIA) failed to maintain utilities of its own. PIA facing almost of 75 billion losses a year and a commulative losses arised to 800 billion, this made a great challenge in privatizing PIA. losses are not limited to

PIA and Energy sector, but another SOE, in transport sector facing huge financial burdens. National Highways authority, Pakistan railways, all these are on losses.

2.

Mismanagement and corrupt practices:

State owned enterprises are making a significant profit in other countries, but in homeland Pakistan it failed to pursue the targets. Mismanagement and corrupt practices are primarily causing these issues. Pakistan railways is a significant example, along with that Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is a key example of these losses. PIA facing cumulative loss of 800 billion losses, but the price bid valued only 161 billion rupees. Another great example Pakistan steel mills, which is bearing more

200 billion losses, but not even operational since 2015.

3.

Inefficient Policies:

Policy making is a crucial step for any project to success. Unfortunately, SOE issue arised with inefficient policy making by stakeholders. Energy sector is the leading example, the IPPs issue is highlighting factors to raise the SOEs issues.

HOW TO PRIVATIZE STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES

Stakeholders are focused on privatizing the SOEs to minimize the budget burdens and financial losses. This need a holistic approach to deal with private entities and make sure effectively privatize the loss bearing State owned enterprises. Here are few key approaches discussed.

1.

Offer subsidized packages to attract investors.

Loss bearing enterprises will not attract the private entities. However, incentivized approach by giving subsidies offer will attract the private entities towards package. PIA and Pakistan steel mills overvaluing reflects that private entities are undermining the national assets.

2.

Effective Policy making with stakeholders.

Inefficient policy led towards this destruction of losses. However, privatizing national assets requires a careful management and effective policy making in this regard a holistic and effective policy making can lead to a successful privatization program.

3:

Public-private partnerships.

public private partnerships are considering as successful project presently, across the globe. To minimize the losses government should consider public private partnerships. policy.

CONCLUSION:

State owned enterprises are the assets of nation, should not be undermined but loss bearing SOEs should be privatized and reduce the budgetary burden. A reports reveals that, accumulative losses of SOEs reached to 5.9 trillion. Pakistan is already grappled with huge challenges, this financial burden needs a careful consideration.

Q#6:

ISLAMABAD - KABUL TENSIONS

1: INTRODUCTION:

Afghanistan a most immediate neighbour of Pakistan and an Islamic country. Relations of Pakistan with Afghanistan are neither best nor bad always. Pakistan ties with Afghanistan categorized in three levels. During cold war, during war on terror, and currently under Taliban government Pakistan relations with Afghanistan remain good under US backed Ashraf Ghani era. Revival of Taliban in 2021 has now increased tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Resurgence of TTP caused heinous effects on Pakistan and Afghanistan relations.

2: RESURGENCE OF TTP AND PAK-AFGHAN TIES:

Taliban Pakistan now using Afghan soil to launch terror attacks against Pakistan. This has caused serious tensions of Pakistan with Afghanistan. 2024 was declared as deadliest year by Pakistan government. Almost 2500 personnel killed during terrorist attacks.

1:

REGIONAL INSTABILITY:

Pakistan Afghanistan tensions after shocks are scattered beyond borders. The rise of TTP attacks caused significant threat to regional stability. This may lead toward geostrategic challenges for both countries as well as regional powers.

2.

Internal Security Concerns of Pakistan.

TTP attacks have created a turmoil situation inside Pakistan. This needs a serious attention towards counting TTP. Although, Pakistani government have warned afghani government to topple down TTP influence in Afghanistan, but unfortunately, this could not make a significant impact on current situation as TTP deployed thousands of troops in borders with Pakistan.

3:

Violation of international agreement.

• TTP attacks inside Pakistan clearly shows the violation of international agreements by Afghani government. Afghanistan under Taliban government still seeks international community recognition and ahead of this these terror attack

4:

Challenge to the Recognition of Afghanistan in international community:

Pakistan remains a key actor in US led war on terror. Presently terror attacks by TTP using Afghan soil may pose a great challenge to Afghan government also. This may block the Afghanistan recognition in international community. Though Pakistan can put this issue to international powers as like UN.

5:

Current situation may lead to crisis inside Afghanistan.

Afghanistan under Taliban government facing many crisis inside Afghanistan. The TTP support could lead Afghan government into more trouble and will go beyond imagination. States possess the use of force rights to defend its sovereignty.

3:

RECOMMENDATIONS CRITICAL ANALYSIS:

Pakistan-Afghanistan, despite being muslim countries having majority of population muslim and geographically most immediate neighbours are in worse ties at present. TTP using Afghan soil as pad to launch terror attacks inside Pakistan. Afghanistan under Taliban government need recognition in international community. Despite challenges Pakistan provided humanitarian aid to Afghanistan on return of Taliban in Kabul. These tensions are not good for both countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan have great trade potential. Should go for trade diplomacy rather than limited on security issues and conflict.

4

POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Pakistan and Afghanistan have cultural as well as ideological similarities. Along with that they are most immediate neighbours to each other. Here are few possible options to improve ties instead of worsen them.

1:

TRADE DIPLOMACY:

Pakistan and Afghanistan have great opportunity to unlock their trade potential. Though both countries are facing economic issues. Instead of fixated ties on security conflicts should go for trade diplomacy.

2:

Engaging Muslim Countries:

Being muslim country Pakistan should engage Islamic countries to resolve Afghan issue. This would be a great possibility for

both countries to strengthen their ties.

3:

Joint operations against terrorism:

Not only Pakistan is facing the terrorism issues but Afghanistan also going through terrorism issue. Joint efforts to counter terrorism would be a significant step to strengthen their ties. It will promote cooperation between both countries.

5 CONCLUSION:

Terrorism has no religion nor it has any affiliations with any state. Pakistan and Afghanistan should counter terrorism joint cooperation. Afghanistan soil against Pakistan will worsen their ties.