

(Pakistan Affairs)

Subjective Part

—(Answer no. 4)—

Introduction

Climate Change is no more a distant reality as it has become a solid fact. Severe heatwaves, rising sea temperature, melting glaciers in Himalaya are nothing but facts which demands serious attention from the authorities in Islamabad to deal with this non-conventional threat because it also poses serious risk to the economy.

An Overview of Impact of Climate Change in Pakistan

An overview is as follows:

- a. Loss of human lives and critical infrastructure

In floods of 2022, Pakistan

lost 30 bn dollars and 1700 lives. In addition to that, many houses were destroyed, millions were displaced with no place to go.

b. Poor Air Quality Affecting Health Security of Pakistan

According to Pakistan Air Quality Initiative, Poor Air quality in Pakistan, especially in Lahore and Multan, saves off 4.4 yrs of life expectancy. The fact highlights how serious risk it has become.

Threats of Climate Change to the Environment of Pakistan

Climate change poses numerous threats to environment of Pakistan and some of them are as follows.

a. Water Scarcity: A serious concern

Due to the adverse impacts of climate change such as global warming, the glaciers

in the Himalaya are continuously melting and in the long run Pakistan can face severe shortage of water.

b. Loss of bio-diversity

Pakistan being a country rich in biodiversity, when struck by a natural disaster such as floods can have adverse effects on biodiversity.

Threats of Climate Change to the Economic Security of Pakistan

Threats of climate change are not limited to environment but also extends to our economy.

a. Severe Heatwaves Affecting the labourers

The year 2024 was recorded as the hottest year and especially Karachi public suffered from severe heat waves, which disrupted economic activity of the city on which Pakistan's economy depends.

b. Effect on Agriculture due to disastrous impacts of Climate Change

According to a report, 90%

of cultivation of rice is done by women in South Asia; droughts, famine poses significant risk to the Agriculture sector of Pakistan.

c. Loss of Economy in the wake of Natural Disasters

"Agriculture sector, is the most affected by the climate-induced disaster, as it accounts 24 p.c of our GDP" Similarly, According to National Adaptation Plan 2023-24, floods of 2022 shaved off 8 p.c of the GDP.

Population Planning and Proper mitigation strategies to avert risk of Climate Induced disasters in Pakistan

To mitigate the risk associated to climate change, authorities in Islamabad need to devise proper population planning and mitigation strategies.

a. Protecting the Marginalized community

According to National Adaptation Plan 2023-24, marginalized section of Pakistan society such as women, children and transgenders are

at the most risk. So, authorities need to make policies which cater the interests of marginalized section.

b. Reducing dependency on hydrocarbons and adopting innovative alternatives

One of the biggest contributors of climate change is relentless burning of fossil fuels. To reduce dependency, following are some examples;

i. India: India has recently devised innovative alternative such as solar roofing over canals to prevent evaporation and to generate electricity.

ii. Netherlands: Similarly, Netherlands has also come up with an idea such as solar pavements to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

iii. Austria: Moreover, Austria has introduced a new innovated project such as Photovoltaic solar roofing.

Pakistan can indeed avert climate risks by adopting innovation and change.

c. Promoting tourism by preserving Natural Beauty of Northern Areas of Pakistan

It is very welcoming that CNN has rated Gilgit-Baltistan in top-25 tourist destination for 2025. Pakistan can employ the Nepal's structured tourism model to generate revenue from it, which implies mandatory tour guides for specific places.

d. Encouraging Plantation across the country

While, Pakistan Green Up Scaling Program deserves applaud, it is crucial to impart awareness across the country to take part in plantation drive by planting billions of trees across the cities.

e. Fostering Green Entrepreneurship

Similarly, it is very crucial for Reality TV Programs such as Shark Tank Pakistan and government to promote Green Entrepreneurship

f. Gathering attention of International community by highlighting vulnerabilities of Pakistan due to Climate change

Pakistan like advocated for lost and damage fund in COP27 (Egypt) and Grant-Based funding in COP-29 (Baku), can similarly mobilize international community behind its environment protection cause.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while the government has shown great efforts by signing MOUs (with Kuwait, UAE and China) and propagating its environment concerns abroad, it ^{also} presents public with an opportunity to contribute for greater economic good of Pakistan. As it is famously said;

"If we will not sustain trees, we will soon live in a world which will not sustain us"

— (Answer no. 6) —

Introduction

Pakistan Economic Plight is far from over as it has one of the lowest tax to GDP ratio, budget deficit problems and a burden of loss making state-owned enterprises on its economy. To get out from this never ending cycle of economic tragedy; authorities in Islamabad needs to show political will to ameliorate the pain of Pakistanis.

An Overview of Pakistan's Economic Plight in terms of the statement

A brief overview of Pakistan's Economic Tapestry is as follows;

a. Low Tax to GDP ratio

Pakistan has one of the lowest Tax to GDP ratio (9%), whereas the average in developing countries is (18%) and Scandinavian countries is (50%).

b. Budget Deficit of Pakistan

Similarly, budget deficit of Pakistan is 5.9% of its GDP, According to Washington consensus it should be around 2%.

i. Total Expenditure

FY 24-25

For the current fiscal year, our expenditure is expected to be around 17 trillion rupees.

ii. Expected Revenue

Generation FY

24-25

For the current fiscal year, expected revenue generation is around 12 trillion rupees.

c. Economic Dependencey on lenders and huge repayments in interests to foreign lenders

Pakistan also depends heavily on foreign lenders and creditors such as IMF, World Bank or

Bilateral lenders like China or UAE. But Pakistan has to pay huge amount in debt repayments. For instance, Pakistan got 203\$ billions in loan and paid back 135\$ billions in interest.

d. Pakistan External and Internal debt

Pakistan's external and internal debt is also rising each day. For example, Total debt is 67.5 trillion rupees, and 43.5 is just internal debt of Pakistan.

i. Debt to GDP ratio of Pakistan

Total debt in dollars is 354 bn and GDP of Pakistan is 374 bn, which means debt to GDP ratio is 80%.

e. Pakistan's Trade Deficit

Pakistan trade deficit is also on the rise as Pakistan is an import dependant country. The trade deficit of Pakistan is around \$6.5 bn.

f. Poor employment rate

Similarly, Pakistan's employment rate is 6.30% (out of 71.5m employable force, 4.15m are unemployed)

g. Stagnant GDP Growth in comparison to other states

While its immediate neighbour India is posting a consistent growth of 6-7%, Pakistan's GDP growth is stagnant at 2.38%.

h. low per Capita GDP

Moreover, Pakistan's GDP (per capita) is also quite low which is 1680\$ or Rs. 38700/month, whereas India stands at 2400\$, Singapore 78000\$.

i. Poor-Performance of SOEs

Most of the SOEs are making huge losses, for instance, total aggregate profit of SOEs is 705 billion rupees, whereas total aggregate loss is 903 billion rupees.

Comprehensive Plan to Stabilize, Restructure and Reform Economy of Pakistan to put an end to never ending story of Economic Tragedy

A Comprehensive Plan to Revitalize Economy is as follows;

a. Political Stability

Authorities in Islamabad need to get their own house in order by putting politics of confrontation aside and make efforts for Political stability.

i. Political courage to accept political cost associated to Economic Reforms
Politicians need to gather courage to bear the political cost associated to making structural reforms.

b. Privitization of SOEs

Similarly, SOEs like Pakistan Railways, Pakistan Steel mill and

Pakistan International Airlines needs to be privatized at earliest to avoid further strain on economy.

c. Broadening The Tax-Base and Expanding The Tax-net

Pakistan's taxation system is inherently flawed, rather than relying on indirect taxation which affects middle class the most, authorities needs to broaden the tax-base and expand the tax nets.

d. Strengthening Export Sector

A country without strong export sector cannot compete in modern economy, therefore ;

i. Fostering Entrepreneurship

Govt. bodies needs to encourage entrepreneurship by providing easy access to credit facility

ii. Subsidizing local

manufacture and

curbing unnecessary

However, for immediate terms

luxury imports

For immediate term, Government can subsidize local manufacturers and also can put luxury imports in abeyance for the time being.

e. Re-negotiating agreements with IPPs to lower

Energy costs

High energy prices increase the cost of production, which makes Pakistani-product less competitive, authorities ought to renegotiate agreement with IPPs ..

Conclusion

In conclusion, Pakistan is a country with huge economic potential and has all the elements to become a key player in international political economy. Therefore, it is high time that authorities should develop fiscal discipline to embolden Pakistan on journey to sustainable growth.

—(Answer no. 8)—

Introduction

Like every other amendments to constitution of Pakistan, 26th amendment have also sparked controversy among lawyer, politicians and academics. Two views prevails in the current debate, where one group feels its powers are been hijacked by the parliament, the other feels it was a necessary step to ensure democracy.

An Overview of 26th Amendment

An overview of 26th Amendment is as follows:

a. Changes to Judicial Commission of Pakistan

It has made significant changes to Judicial Commission of Pakistan such as;

- i. Increase in Number of Members

From 8, members

of JCP are now
increased to 13;

where 2 are from
opposition, 2 from
government and

one is appointed by
the speaker of NA.

ii. Power to

form Constitu-
tional Bench

Moreover, JCP has

also being mandated

to form constitutional

bench, which was

previously vested in

GC.

iii. Power to take
Review on the
Performance
of Judges

In addition to that,

JCP can now take

Judicial performance

reviews of the judges.

making them subservient to Parliament.

b. Suo Moto Power vested in Constitutional Bench

Initially, the power to take suo moto was vested in Chief Justice of Pakistan, but now Constitutional bench has this power to take suo moto.

i. Alternative: Whereas, a better alternative would be if that power was shared by two senior most judges of SC and HC.

c. Formation of Constitutional Bench

26th Amendment has also form constitutional bench, which is necessary to deal with the dispute of legal nature only to avoid delays. The constitutional bench can consists of 3, 5, 7 or even more members.

i. Newly Formed Constitutional Bench

The newly formed constitutional bench is chaired by the 4th most senior Judge and top 3 judges are not even members, which makes intentions of 26th amendment unclear for the critics.

d. Appointment of CJP

Initially, CJP was appointed on the seniority principle, but after 26th amendment, a parliamentary committee of 12 members will

choose 1 out of 3

Judges and advice it to the higher authorities, which will then appoint the
Chief Justice of
Pakistan.

Critical Evaluation on the Balance between Judicial Independence and Parliamentary Oversight

A critical evaluation of 26th Amendment is as follows;

a. Opposing views on formation of constitutional Bench

Two opposing views exist where one group sees it as an important step towards democracy, the other sees it as curtailing its freedom and independence.

b. Curtailing the Judicial Independence

Lawyers across the country are very skeptical about the intentions of 26th amendment as they feel it has

limited the power of Supreme court
c. Hasty Amendment

Moreover, Critics also believe that 26th Amendment was a hasty legislation, which was enacted without enough deliberation and inclusivity.

d. Introduction of
court within a
court

Analyst also says that 26th Amendment has developed a "Parallel Court" which will only affect the efficiency of existing judicial machinery.

e. Politically motivated
Appointments of Judges

With the power vested in JCP (dominated by Parliamentarians), it can now decide which judge should sit where and for what matter, and most importantly for how long?

f. Dismissal of Judges on a whim

JCP can now dismiss the Judges on whim, as critics argue that "They will now be nominating judges to Judge them, if they don't like the Judgement, they can obviously remove them"

Conclusion

In conclusion, every amendment in Pakistan is generally surrounded by the controversy, which brings our attention to a point that any amendment or legislation should be done in transparency and openly in public to avoid such controversies because Article 19-A gives People of Pakistan "The Right to Information"

— (Answer no. 7) —

Introduction

Importance of Agriculture for any country cannot be understated especially for Pakistan. But, the problems in agriculture sector of Pakistan indirectly affects the industry of Pakistan. To averse these effects, authorities needs to adopt a comprehensive strategy to strengthen agriculture.

An overview of Agriculture sector of Pakistan according to Economic Survey of Pakistan

According to ESP 23-24;

- (i). Agriculture overall contribute 6.25% to the GDP growth, whereas it overall share in GDP stands at 24%.
- (ii). Cotton ^{has} shown growth of 108%, Rice 34%, and wheat 11.6%.
- (iii). Maize and Millet posted negative growth

Problems in Agriculture Sector of Pakistan

Problems in agriculture sector of Pakistan are as follows:

a. Poor Post Harvest Handling

For example,

According to WB, Pakistan waste 30-40 pc of agricultural production due to poor post harvest handling.

b. Water Scarcity: A serious threat to Agriculture

Around 90% of Pakistan water resources is consumed by agriculture, but with the risk of climate change, the agriculture can be badly affected.

c. Energy Problems

Similarly, around 30% of agriculture runs on electric tube wells, due to high energy prices, the agriculture product price will also increase and become less competitive.

d. Outdated Irrigation Techniques

Pakistan can 12.5 m acre feet of water (according to WB), if Pakistan modernizes its irrigation system such as moving to drip irrigation system.

A Brief overview of Pakistan being a semi-industrialized country according ESP 23-24

According to ESP 23-24;

- (i). Automobile, Beverages, Iron and steel, sulphur have posted negative growth, whereas;
- (ii). Furniture and Pharmaceutical has posted a growth of 23% each, and wearing apparel (5%) and leather industry has also posted (5%) growth.

Elucidating that how the problems in Agriculture sector of Pakistan affects the industrial sector of Pakistan

a. Ownership of Land by
feudal impedes the
prospects of farmer to
shift from Agriculture to
Industry (Manufacturing)

Monopoly over lands by the feudals impedes the farmer's prospect to contribute more to economy. Most of the farmers in Punjab and Sindh work as a tenants for their whole life.

b. Lack of Initiatives
like "Hello Tractor" or
"Big Basket"

Pakistan is missing initiatives such as; 'Hello tractor' was an initiative taken by African countries to provide farmers with rental machineries. Similarly, 'Big Basket' a project of India, linked farmers direct to consumers which helped in the growth of economy, as farmers themselves created packaged food and shipped to customers.

iii. Agriculture being the largest source of FER

Agriculture is the largest source of earning FER, these dollars are then used to modernize industry by subsidizing local manufacturers.

iv. Agriculture and Employment

Agriculture also accounts for the employment of half of the employable labour workforce, which means it is crucial to keep the engine running.

v. Agriculture contribution to GDP which bolsters Pakistan's overall economy

Agriculture also contributes around 24 p.c to the GDP of Pakistan, which means that if the agriculture is strong of a country only then it can move from semi-industrialized to

fully industrialized state.

vi. Fostering Agriculture
competitions to modernize
economy

Competitions like ZaZaraat
which encouraged entrepreneurship
while at the same time solved
problem needs to be promoted.

For Example, LeetCode Well was
a company who won the
competition.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Agriculture is indeed
the backbone of any country and
a country can only proceed ahead
if its agriculture sector is strong.