

~ (Question No. 3) ~

1. Introduction:

The insurgency in Balochistan is an insurgency by Baloch separatist insurgents and various Islamist militant groups against the government of Pakistan. The separatist insurgency in Balochistan is one of the pressing issue for Pakistan. The Baloch separatist groups are Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), Ld (Lashkare Jang). There are some causes behind this insurgency in Balochistan which requires practicable solution.

2. Causes of the recurring separatist insurgencies in Balochistan

There are mainly two main

school of thoughts regarding insurgencies in Baluchistan.

(i) The Central school of thought

(a) Landlords, clergy, chieftain - not allowing the rise of middle class.

The central school of thought comprises of strong centre and weak units. This school of thought gives multiple reasons of insurgency in Baluchistan. In Baluchistan province, landlords, clergy, and chieftains do not allow the middle class to rise. The rise mean economic and social development of the society. If the middle class rises, the hold of these entities will decline or go away.

(b) Contribution of Baloch Sardars:

Baloch Sardars are also responsible in this act. According to this school of thought, the benefits given by the centre to the Provincial Groups were pocketed by these Baloch Sardars. They did not allow educational, health and business infrastructure to be built in Baluchistan. Ultimately it hampers the rise of middle class.

(c) Role of tribal chieftains:

The tribal chieftain build their own tribal militia or armed groups against the state whenever they want. There have always been disputes between different tribal belts. They use weapons against each

other. So these tribal chieftains and militia groups use same weapons against the state.

(d) Links of Sardars with intelligence agencies:

In Baluchistan, there are series of Sardars who have links with intelligence agencies like RAW to get weapon and financial aid. RAW is an intelligence agency of India ~~the~~ which uses Afghan and Iran as a launchingpad for terrorists attacks in Baluchistan. It's primary aim is to sabotage CPEC and destabilize Baluchistan through terrorist attacks.

cii) The Federal School of thought

(a) Stronger units and weak centre - objection

on centralist:

This school of thought has the view of strong units and weak centre. It presents multiple arguments against centralists. If Sardars are the primary cause of conflict, then why there are repeated attacks in District Lasbella where the Sardar (the Jaam Family) has always been in favour of center. Why there are attacks in Makran District where the Sardars are non-existent, which means Sardars are not the main cause behind attacks and insurgency in Baluchistan.

(b) Availability of illegal weapons across the country, not only Sardars are responsible for insurgency: If Sardars are weaponized

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then Pushtuns are too. Sardars are not solely responsible for attack. Illegal weapons are available across the country including Karachi. It is primarily a policy of the state of joining Afghan Jihad in 1979 and War on Terror in 2001, becoming primary reason of weaponization in Pakistani society. Weapons come from across the world and especially from Afghanistan.

iii) Real reasons behind recurring insurgency in Baluchistan

(a) Alienation of the common public:

Alienation of the common public is the major prerequisite for the rise of the insurgency in Baluchistan. When the common

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people are aligned by the state, ultimately they rise against the state when their socio-economic rights are not fulfilled. For example, the Sui Gas was explored in 1952 and was provided to all major parts of Punjab, KPK and Sindh by 1960. In 1984, Quetta - the capital of Balochistan received. Sui area is still deprived of this facility. Alienation of the common public became the cause of insurgency in Balochistan.

(b) The rise of armed militancy;

When socio-economic rights are not fulfilled by the state, and when the state adopts coercive policy rather than economic engagement strategies, which create an

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environment for militancy to rise. Baloch Nationalists have this opinion.

(c) Invitation of foreign involvement,

When insurgency rise in an area, it invites foreign power or foreign involvement as RAW is involved in case of Balochistan. But only RAW is not cause, it is the effect of flawed policies of Government in Baluchistan province.

(d) Grawadar concern:

The public concern related to Grawadar is that jobs are not provided to the common people rather they are provided to CPEC workers and outsiders or people from other provinces.

(e) Missing persons - violation of human rights:

Massive disappearance of public without any trial or presenting before control has become a major cause of militancy in Balochistan.

(f) Political deprivation:

There has been no solid politics in Baluchistan Province which gave rise to militants groups to use the land for their purposes.

3. Policy options for the state of Pakistan to resolve the issue once and for all:

i) Bringing reforms in police

There is dire need to bring reforms in politics. Increase the number of police, sufficient funds and require weapon.

ii) Negotiation with insurgent groups:

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Negotiation should always be an option with the insurgent groups, but the government should negotiate at a point of strength.

iii) A ground strategy for demilitarizing the society:

A ground strategy should be started from merged district of KPK and Baluchistan. First option should be volunteered dropping and handing over the weapons and such people should be provided ^{with} financial support. Secondly, search operation: It is time taken process but Pakistan has no option instead of to adopt it.

iv) Bringing socio-economic development:

There is need to bring socio-economic development in the province. This will be the only

Solution to calm down the masses.

v) Restoration of public trust.

Government should try to restore the trust of the public. Restoration of public trust is very important for the state to tackle the militancy in the province.

vi) Policies regarding missing persons:

There should be trials and court proceedings regarding missing persons. Open trials should be for missing persons to avoid the social unrest in the province and across the country.

(vii) Gawardar centric concerns:

Public grievances regarding Gawardar should be sought out. Jobs should be provided to the local people first.

viii) Institution building:

Government should provide funds to build institution in Balochistan. Educational and healthcare infrastructure should be built in the province.

ix) Provision of incentives:

Incentives should be provided to the common public, as Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan in 2011 by PPP.

4. Conclude:

To sum up, Balochistan insurgency is a major concern for Pakistan. There are multiple causes and views related to Balochistan insurgency. To tackle this issue, it is necessary for government to adopt certain policy options to resolve the issue once and for all.

~ (Question No. 1) ~

1. Introduction:

(SOEs) State owned enterprises have been a huge and persistent burden on the ^{budgetary} economy of Pakistan. State owned enterprises are the loss-making entities in Pakistan. There are several reasons or causes behind this. However by adopting certain methods and strategies, these state owned enterprises can be privatized.

2. Causes behind the inefficiencies of State-owned enterprises in Pakistan:

i) Poor performance of SOEs:

Poor performance of SOEs has severely impacted Pakistan's

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fiscal landscape by putting additional budget on public exchequer in terms of losses, bailouts, and other forms of support by the government

ii) Inefficient management and lack of accountability:

State-owned enterprises in Pakistan are often plagued by bureaucratic red tape, corruption, and lack of professional behaviour. Due to inefficient management and lack of accountability, they become burden on Pakistan's budgetary economy rather than uplifting the country's economy.

iii) Lack of clarity over the role of multiple stakeholders:

Lack of clarity over the role of multiple stakeholders

has contributed to the inefficiency of SOEs. The roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, including government, regulators, and management, are often unclear or overlapping, leading to confusion, inefficiency, and conflicting priorities.

iv) Poor governance and lack of transparency:

SOEs in Pakistan lack transparency and accountability, which leads to corruption and mismanagement. Poor governance is a persistent factor in SOEs which makes it a burden on the economy of the country.

v) Increasing debt from commercial sources posing significant risk by SOEs:

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Another significant risk posed by the SOEs is their debt from commercial sources, especially National Bank of Pakistan. In Nov 2024, the total cumulative debt (Risk) Rs 9,274,260 million. SOEs are not only loss making entities but also debt increasing entities.

v) Limited competition and innovation:

SOEs often enjoy monopolies, stifling competition and innovation. This can lead to lack of incentives for innovation and improvement. It can also lead to stagnation of industries and lack of economic growth.

vii) Financial management and

dependence on government subsidies:

Many SOEs operate at a loss requiring frequent bailouts and subsidies from the government. This can lead to a significant financial burden on the government and taxpayers. Moreover, the inefficient allocation of resources and misallocation of capital can lead to a lack of financial discipline and accountability.

viii) Outdated technology and infrastructure:

Many SOEs in Pakistan use outdated technologies and infrastructure, making it difficult for them to compete with private sector companies. This can lead to inefficiencies and high operating costs, making it

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challenging for SOEs to operate profitably.

3. Solutions for privatizing state-owned enterprises in Pakistan.

i) Transparent and competitive binding process:

Government should ensure transparent and competitive binding process to attract reputable investors. This can help to ensure that the privatization process is fair and transparent. This can be achieved by using international best practices for binding and procurement.

ii) Restructuring and reforms:

Implement reforms to make SOEs more attractive for private investors. This can include restruc-

turning the organization, improving governance, and increasing transparency. Reforms ^{can} also involve modernizing business processes, reducing bureaucracy and improving financial management.

iii) Corporate governance and accountability:

Establish a strong corporate governance framework to ensure accountability and transparency in the management of privatized SOEs. A corporate governance framework can include a clear organizational structure, well-defined roles and responsibilities.

iv) Monitoring and Evaluation:

Regularly monitor and evaluate the performance of privatized SOEs to ensure they are meeting

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their obligations and contributing to Pakistan's economic growth. Monitoring and evaluation can involve tracking key performance indicators, conducting regular audits, and assessing the impacts of privatization on the economy and the society.

v) Protection of consumer interests

Establish a robust regulatory framework to protect the interests of the consumers and ensure that privatized SOEs provide high-quality services at affordable prices. Protection of consumer interests involve consumer protection laws, and regulating practices.

vi) Modernization of technology and infrastructure:

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Government should invest in modernizing the technology and infrastructure of privatized SOEs to improve their efficiency and competitiveness. Modernization can involve upgrading technology, improving infrastructure, and adopting new business processes.

vii) Investment in human capital:

Investment in training and development programs for employees improves their skills and productivity. Investment in human capital involves providing training programs, workshops, and conferences to enhance employees' skills and knowledge.

viii) Regulatory framework and employee protection:

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Government should establish a framework to ensure fair competition, while providing adequate protection and support for employees affected by privatization.

4. Conclusion:

In a nutshell, SOEs in Pakistan are loss making entities which put burden on a budgetary economy of Pakistan. Addressing the causes of inefficiency of SOEs is crucial. A well-planned privatization strategy can unlock the potential of these enterprises and benefit the economy and citizens of Pakistan.

^{ee} Privatization is not the development panacea it is claimed to be, particularly for countries at earlier stages of development, and its effectiveness

as a generator of sustainable
growth and efficiency is
in fact deeply questionable."

[Ammar Rashid]