

QUESTION-01

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Write about the system of accountability in Islam and how it can ensure an effective public administration?

System of Accountability in Islam

Islam is a deen that ensures guidance in every sphere of life along with beliefs and faith in Allah Almighty. In an Islamic state, sovereignty belongs to Allah and everyone is accountable before Him. Muslims are accountable for their actions and there is no discrimination on the basis of social status, colour, caste or religion. The concept of accountability in Islam keeps a ruler and administrator vigilant in his conduct of affairs. When a ruler is appointed in Islamic state, he conducts affairs with justice, transparency, equality, and following the teachings of Holy Quran and Sunnah. Therefore, Islamic system ensures effective public service delivery.

① Accountability extends to all state organs in Islam

In Islamic state accountability extends to everyone whether he is ruler, governor, judge or caliph. Even prophets themselves practiced to create examples for the public. One example given below,

Hazrat Ali (R.A) presented himself before court when a Jew claimed ownership of his armour.

② Accountability of ruler in Islamic state

In an Islamic state a ruler is the servant of the public and he is responsible for the situation of his country or state. He is accountable not only for his own deeds but also affairs of the state. It is responsibility of the ruler to ensure justice, equality, transparency, social order, maintenance of law and implementation of policies according to Holy Quran and Sunnah.

In the backdrop of these principles, a trustworthy ruler run the state efficiently and ensure effective public administration. Allah says in Surah Al-ambiyah

And we have made them leaders and we command them, and sent them as an inspiration to do good, establish prayer, give Zakaat, practice regular charity and they constantly served us and (only us).

(Surah Al-ambiyah: 73)

It is responsibility of the ruler to spread Islamic teaching and run the state according to Islamic sharia.

③ Accountability of all humans

In an Islamic state, not only ruler but also public is accountable for all their deed in this world and hereafter. Prophet (PBUH) said that,

Each one of you is a guardian
and each of one of you is
accountable to everything
under his ear.

(Hadith)

④ Accountability of the judges

In an Islamic state, impartiality
and social justice is very significant.
Judges are required to decide matters with
justice and merit without any discrimination
on the basis of caste, creed, colour or
religion. As Allah commands justice in
Surah Al-Ma'ida,

And if you judge, judge
between them with justice
(5:42)

Prophet (ﷺ) also emphasized justice. He
said,

O mankind! People before you
became astray because they
didn't punish those who were
powerful but they executed
only the weak who committed

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 theft. By Allah, if Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad (and she committed theft), would have cut off her hands.

How accountability ensures effective public administration

When a person is held accountable for all his actions, he starts practising justice, honesty, and equality. Everyone performs their duties with responsibility. In this way, a smooth system is created that runs according to teachings of Holy Quran and Sunnah.

① Formation of a welfare state

Transparency and good governance is ~~created~~ ensured with system of accountability.

A ruler formulate policies and actions that align with welfare of public. He maintains rule of law, equitable distribution of resources, and protection of human dignity.

Hence, both ruler and public become responsible resulting in effective public administration.

② Ensuring effective public administration

Public administration in Islam is based on transparency, rule of law, justice, accountability and effective service delivery. A true ruler conduct affairs of state according to the Holy Quran and Sunnah. Being an honest and trustworthy ruler will ensure effective public administration. Consequently, a prosperous state will be created with increased citizen's trust and reliability.

Conclusion

The system of accountability in Islam holds everyone accountable for his deeds both in this world and in hereafter. Everyone is responsible before Allah and the ruler of state is accountable for state affairs as well. Hence, this system ensures effective public administration through social justice, rule of law, equality, transparency, morality and effective service delivery.

QUESTION 2

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Write notes on the following:

Reforms Of Caliph Umar (R.A)

Hazrat Umar (R.A) is the second caliph. He is well-known for his innovative reforms, courage and justice. He formulated basis of Islamic state institutions and exemplified Islam as a religion for public welfare. Hazrat Umar (R.A) created judicial ~~system~~ institution, economic reforms, introduced first calendar of Islam. He constituted police department, prison, and he also established provincial administration. Some of the reforms introduced by Caliph Umar are given below:

① Caliph: as ruler of the state

Caliph Umar himself conducted state affairs both religious and political. He ~~was~~ used to lead prayers five times daily and also Friday prayer. He used to lead people at Hajj (Pilgrimage) and interacted with public to listen to their complaints.

② Hazrat Umar established Majlis-e-Shura

He established Majlis-e-Shura to conduct state affairs. He divided it into two components. One was Majlis-e-Shura-e-Aam and other was Majlis-e-Shura-e-Khas. The ~~formal~~ formal consists of tribal heads and public and the latter was constituted of heads of the council cabinet and decided matters ~~at~~ for the state. All decisions were carried out with consultation with the public.

③ He established different departments in central government

Many institutions were introduced such as department of military, finance department and departments for public morality, assets protection and office letters.

④ Decentralization of power of institutions

Caliph Umar devoluted central government power into provincial government and he divided many the empire into many provinces.

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Financial Administration

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He laid the formulation of revenue department and he considered Bait-ul-mal as sacred trust of people. He used to spend rightly according to needs of people and collected state finances justly.

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Economic resources of the state

Under the administration of Caliph Umar, the economy of the empire was collected from different sources such as Zakat, Ushar, jizya, Kharaj and he ensured just spending according to needs of public.

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Judicial administration

He laid the formulation of judicial department and justice was administered according to teaching of Holy Quran and Sunnah. Caliph Umar appointed judge on merit basis and he fixed their high salaries so that no judge gives tyrant decision by taking bribery. Caliph Umar was the first person who fixed salaries of the judges.

⑧ Police department and introduction of prisons

He was the first person who introduced police department and ~~with~~ prisons. Before him there were no prisons in Arabia.

⑨ Introduction of Islamic calendar

He introduced Islamic calendar that started after migration of prophet (PBUH) called Hijrah calendar.

⑩ Land Reforms

He introduced land reforms and revoked feudal system and divided lands among landless individuals. As agriculture was an important source of income, so he greatly focused this sector.

⑪ Construction of mosques

He constructed almost four thousand mosques and Caliph Umar ensure that each city or town had almost one mosque so that education of Quran becomes feasible.

Therefore, Caliph Umar introduced innovative reforms in the Islamic state that was followed by then caliphs as well.

b. Responsibilities of civil servant.

The public administrator or civil servant has significant responsibilities.

He is responsible for ethical administration and moral conduct of the state affairs.

He is responsible for encouraging accountability, transparency, rule of law, justice and moral development of a society.

i) Ensuring social justice and rule of law

The civil servant is responsible for execution of the policies and plans. It is his responsibility to ensure justice and equality. As Allah says in Holy Quran,

If you judge, judge
between them with Justice

(5:49)

ii) Encouraging accountability and sense of responsibility

Islam holds a man accountable in both his collective and individual affairs. It is responsibility of a civil servant to ensure accountability

perform his duty with responsibility. Holy Prophet (PBUH) says,

Each one of you is a guardian and each guardian is accountable to everything under his ear
(Hadith)

iii) Increase transparency in state affairs

Transparency is the practice of providing right to information so that public can view state policies. Islam has admired those people who work for the welfare of others. As a public official, it is the duty of a civil servant to ensure transparency in the state affairs. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that

The best humans are those who gave advantage to other humans.

(Hadith)

iv) Encouraging discipline and social order

Islam has encouraged disciplined

society. It is responsibility of the civil servant to ensure that people pursue rules and regulations. Indiscipline and disobedience disrupt order in the state affairs. Allah has admired those people who are better in the conduct of their affairs.

Conclusion

The civil servant is - the administrator of a state who is responsible for conduct of state affairs and execution of the policies. It is his duty to ensure accountability, transparency and rule of law. He should maintain discipline and encourage social justice in the society.