

TOPIC 24

INITIAL PROBLEMS OF PAKISTAN 1947 -48:

Introduction:

- Quaid-e-azam sworn as the Governor General of Pakistan on 14 august 1947.
- He said “**Pakistan has come to exist for ever**”.

Geographical problems:

Pakistan was **split** into two separate parts almost a **thousand miles** apart. East Pakistan comprised of most of Bengal and the Sylhet which voted in a referendum to join Pakistan. West Pakistan comprised of west Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and the NWFP. The princely states of Dir, Swat, Chitral, Amb, Hunza, Gilgit and Bahawalpur also joined Pakistan. These two wings of Pakistan were separated by about a 1000 miles of land that belonged to India. There was nothing common between these two wings except religion.

Political problems:

India inherited government buildings, furnishings even officials from the British. Pakistan had none of these. India had officials, members of the Indian national congress, with political experience to take over the government. In Pakistan, the constituent Assembly members were mostly wealthy landlords with little political experience. Pakistan lacked both the administrative and the government machinery to run the affairs of a new country Quaid-e-azam would need to find a capital, a government and officials to ensure the efficient government of the new state. Perhaps the major problem was that the Quaid-e-azam had suffered from **tuberculosis**.

Economic problems:

Pakistan was underdeveloped with very little industry. Only **Karachi** had the modern port but much of Pakistan had no linked to the industrialization that had taken place in central India. Around 90 % people lived in the country side and only 8 towns had a population of 100,000. Pakistan's agriculture didn't produce enough of a surplus to create the wealth needed for industrialization. Only jute export produced the major source of foreign exchange earnings for Pakistan but the problems created by partition are exemplified by the fact that in 1947 Pakistan didn't have a single jute mill. All the jute mills were in the new India.

The percentage of economic assets in Pakistan after partition:

- Industrial enterprises: 10 %
- Industrial workers : 6.5 %
- Electrical capacity : 5%
- Mineral deposits : 10 %

Electricity Problem

Due to transfer of Muslim majority areas to India and unfair demarcation, electricity system of West Punjab was disrupted ,because all power stations were at Mundi, a predominantly Muslim majority area, gifted to India but Quaid-e-Azam said:

"If we are to exist as a nation ,we will have to face the problems with determination and force."

Social problems:

Pakistan was mainly made up of 5 different regions. Some historians have gone as far as suggesting that really it was 5 different nations. Certainly there were five different population groupings.

- (i) the Pakhtuns in the north
- (ii) the Balochs in the west
- (iii) the Sindhis in the south
- (iv) the Punjabis in the north east
- (v) the Bengalis in the east

These people had different traditions, cultures, languages and lifestyles. Baluchistan and Bengal in 1947 were not completely sure that they now wanted to transfer allegiance to a new Pakistan, where once again the official language Urdu would not be the one they spoke.

The accession of the princely states:

Lord Mountbatten gave the right to 462 princely states to choose between India and Pakistan. Their location and their religion made the choice a straightforward one. In 1947 the northern areas of Dir, Swat, Chitral, Amb and Hunza joined Pakistan. Bahawalpur also joined Pakistan; Sylhet in East also joined Pakistan through referendum.

Hyderabad was the largest of the princely states with a population of 160 million. It was wealthy with revenue of 160 million rupees. Nizam wanted to join Pakistan but he was pressurized to join India due to non-Muslim population there. In August he filed a complaint before UNO. But before it could be heard Indian troops captured Hyderabad.

Junagarh was a small state on the coast, 300 miles south of Karachi. Its prince was Muslim but population was non-Muslim. Prince announced to join Pakistan in 1947. But Lord Mountbatten informed Pakistan that the accession of *Junagarh* was an *encroachment on Indian sovereignty and territory*. Ultimately Indian troops surrounded the state and took the control. Pakistan protested to the UNO about the illegal occupation but the matter remains unresolved.

The Kashmir Issue:

The most serious disagreement between India and Pakistan concerned the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Its boundaries with Tibet, China, Afghanistan and Russia gave it great strategic importance. Most of the 4 million inhabitants of Kashmir were Muslims but the maharaja was Hindu. In September 1947 he started a campaign to drive many Muslims out of Kashmir. Over 200,000 fled to Pakistan and finally the Muslims rose in rebellion. The Maharaja was forced to turn to India for help to crush the Muslims. Indian help came and the Maharaja Hari Singh agreed to accede to India. Pakistan also sent troops to help Kashmir (Muslims). Neither side was strong enough for a long war. So in January 1948 the matter referred to the UNO. A ceasefire was arranged on Jan. 1949 and Kashmir was divided between India and Pakistan. India retained the largest area of Kashmir including the capital Srinagar. Indian Prime Minister Nehru agreed that a referendum would be held in Kashmir to determine the wishes of the people, *once the situation has normalized*. This referendum has not been held yet...

The division of financial and military assets:

It was agreed that the assets were to be divided on the ratio of 17 to India and 5 to Pakistan. This reflected the relative size and populations of the country. In June 1947 it was agreed that Pakistan would be paid **750 million** rupees of the **4 billion** rupees in the reserve bank. First 200 million rupees were paid but later on India refused to pay the rest saying Pakistan would only use it to buy arms to fight against India. Gandhi determined that the division of assets should be fair and took steps to persuade India to pay the due money. He used the threat of a hunger strike and successfully persuaded the Indian government to pay a further 500 million rupees. Armed forces and the military equipment were split 36 % to 64% between Pakistan and India.

The armed forces personnel were given freedom to opt for whichever country they wanted. Muslim regiments went to Pakistan and non- Muslim to India. Pakistan's army comprising on **150,000 men** and had only 2500 trained Muslim officers. It required 4000 officers; ultimately Jinnah had to hire 500 British officers temporarily. All **16 ordnance** factories were in India, and it refused to hand over any. Pakistan had no factory for making military goods. Eventually India agreed to pay 60 million rupees in lieu of handing over ordnance factories. The military supplies which India agreed to hand over were often old, worn, damaged and obsolete.

The canal water dispute:

The canal water dispute had its origin in the partition of Punjab in 1947. West Pakistan relies upon irrigation from a series of canals which draw water from the 3 main rivers in the area, the Indus, the Jhelum, and the Chenab. The problem for Pakistan was that the flow of water was controlled at a series of 'headwork's' lay in the part of east Punjab (India). Soon India and Pakistan indulge into a canal water dispute. Pakistan called for the matter to be settled by international court of justice but India refused. In May 1948 a temporary agreement was reached and India agreed to allow water from east Punjab to flow into west Punjab.

Refugees and the accommodation crises:

In the years immediately before partition there was widespread violence between Muslims and the non-Muslims communities across India. The summer of 1947 saw rioting which led to numerous deaths. When the **boundary Award** was announced in August 1947 things became worse. Millions of people found themselves living in the wrong country and became victims of communal attacks. That year witnessed the largest migration of mankind and also some of the worst scenes of communal violence. Over 20 million people had moved from India to Pakistan or in other direction by Jan. 1948. Many Muslim historians believe that Hindus and Sikhs had an organized programme for the massacre of Muslim refugees. A million men, women and children died as a result of the violence or the rigors of the long journey. Nearly 10 million people were made homeless. Karachi alone received nearly 2 million refugees in 1947. That was impossible for Pakistan to provide accommodations to that mass number of people. In September 1947 the authorities in Delhi had to declare martial law as non-Muslim refugees had begun a slaughter of local Muslims. India and Pakistan were so concerned about the communal violence that they began to cooperate in trying to control it.

Drawbacks in Educational System:

Lack of proper planning:

There is no proper planning. Planning needs correct facts and figures which are not available. Innovations are neither research based nor are introduced after proper preparation. They are introduced with a stroke of pen, and are cancelled in equal haste. Nationalization and de-nationalization of schools, semester system and its cancellation, comprehensive schools, superior science colleges are examples.

Policies and their implementation:

Education policies are framed, but are not fully implemented with honesty and whole heartedness. Five policies were framed, the latest was in 1979. Over 1000 recommendations were made but only 25% were implemented. A new policy is introduced with every change of government.

Administrative set up:

Officers at high level want to have all powers in their hands. At lower level there is lack of proper supervision and control.

Lack of funds:

This is the most important drawback. The government has no money to open more primary schools to accommodate all children of school going age. The result is that there is overcrowding in primary and secondary schools. Most of the money allocated to education is spent on salaries. There is no money for research, development or teachers' training.

Poor condition of Schools:

School buildings are in bad shape. Buildings are neglected and dilapidated. There are thousands of schools without proper class rooms. There is no proper furniture or facilities of drinking water, toilets or playing grounds. Very often classes are held under the open sky and children are sitting on bare ground.

Teachers:

In Pakistan teachers are a neglected community. No incentive is provided by the governments or the society to the teachers and they are considered to be a community known for their intellectual and economic backwardness. Training of teachers is also on old and out-moded lines and it does not conform with the latest methods and trends.

Examination System:

Examination system is in primitive state. The system is based on selective study, memorizing the text books or notes is all what is required. Memorization of a narrow range of predictable topics is rewarded by high marks. The system of examination is counter-productive as far as intellectual growth is concerned. It tempts the students to cram rather than analyse and apply the knowledge to solve problems.

Expected questions:

Question No. 1: Explain three reasons for the canal water dispute between India and Pakistan.

(7)

June 2000 Q. 4 b

Question No. 2: how successful did India and Pakistan handle the Kashmir issue up to 1988? Explain your answer. (14)

Nov. 2000 Q. 4 c

Question No.3: why was Pakistan faced with a refugee problem in 1947? (7)

Nov. 2000 Q.4 b

Question No. 4: How successful was the government of Pakistan in solving the problems of partition during 1947 and 1948? Explain your answer. (14)

June 2002 Q.4.c

Question No. 5: why did Pakistan join the UN in 1947? (7)

Nov. 2002 Q.5 b

Question No. 6: why was the division of the armed forces and military assets a problem for Pakistan in 1947? (7)

Nov. 2003 Q. 4 b

Question No. 7: was the refugee issue the most important problem facing the newly formed government of Pakistan in 1947? Give reasons for your answer. (14)

June 2004 Q. 3 c

- Question No. 8:** how successful did India and Pakistan handle the Kashmir issue between 1947 and 1988? Explain your answer. (14) Nov. 2004 Q. 4c
- Question No.9:** why did Pakistan face so many problems in the provision of education between 1947 and 1988? (7) Nov. 2004 Q.5 b
- Question No. 10:** The government of Pakistan was totally successful in solving the problems of partition during 1947 and 1948. Do you agree? Explain your answer. (14) June 2005 Q. 4 c
- Question No. 11:** how successful did India and Pakistan handle the Kashmir issue between 1946 and 1988? Explain your answer. (14) Nov. 2006 Q. 4 c
- Question No.12:** Why was Pakistan faced with a refugee problem in 1947? (7) Nov. 2006 Q. 4 b
- Question No.13:** why did Pakistan join the UN in 1947? (7) June 2007 Q. 4 b
- Question No. 14:** The canal water dispute was the most important problem facing the newly established government of Pakistan in 1947.do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer. (14) June 2007 Q.4c
- Question No.15:** why did educational reform become such an important issue between 1947and 1988? (7) Nov 2007 Q.4 b
- Question No. 16:** the low rate of literacy was the most important social problem facing Pakistan between 1947 and 1988.do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. (14) June 2008 Q.4 c
- Question No.17:** the formation of a government was the most important problem facing the newly established country of Pakistan in 1947, do you agree? (14) Nov 2009 Q. 4 c
- Question No.18:** what was the Canal Water Dispute? (4) June 2010 Q.4a
- Question No.19:** why did Pakistan join the UN in 1947? (7) June 2010 Q.4 b
- Question No. 20:** Describe the refugee problem. (4) No. 2012 Q.4.a
- Question No.21:** The government of Pak. Was totally successful in solving the problems of partition during 1947 and 1948. Do you agree? Explain your answer. (14) June 2012 Q. 4 c

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 4:-

The government of Pakistan was successful to some extent in solving the problems of partition during 1947 and 1948. When Pakistan came into existence in August 1947, it faced many difficulties. The most important problem was the formation of a central government of Pakistan. There were no offices, no office equipment and no office workers. The central government offices were set up in army barracks and hired residential buildings. However under the guidance of Quaid – e – Azam and with courage and confidence, the

difficulties were overcome and the government of Pakistan started functioning smoothly. Quaid – e – Azam and Liaquat Ali Khan became the Governor general and Prime Minister respectively.

The problem of refugees was a very big problem. Communal riots had started in Indian Punjab and Delhi. Millions of Muslims had to leave their homes and had to run to Pakistan. The Pakistan government set up camps for the refugees and looked after them for several months. They were gradually settled in the new country. Under the guidance of Quaid-e- Azam a new department was created for rehabilitation of the refugees.

The division of military assets was another problem. The division was to be made at a ratio of 36:64 between the two countries. But since all big military stores were on the side of India. The equipment given to Pakistan was obsolete and consisted of unusable machinery and equipment. Pakistan had to suffer a great loss and had to start from a scratch.

In the division of financial assets again the Indian leaders showed great dishonesty and unfairness. The payment was not only withheld for a long time, but out of a sum of Rs: 750 million only Rs: 700 million were paid in several instalments. Rs: 50 million were never paid at all.

Canal water dispute also arose in April 1948 when India stopped the supply of water in the canals coming out of River Ravi and River Sutlej, because their head-works were located in India. A large agricultural area of Pakistan was badly affected. After lengthy negotiations this problem was solved with the cooperation of World Bank under the Indus Water Treaty in 1960. The accession of three princely states of Junagarh, Hyderabad and Kashmir created great problems for Pakistan. The ruler of Junagarh formally acceded to Pakistan. But the population was mostly non-Muslim; therefore, India occupied the state with the help of armed forces. The state of Hyderabad wanted to remain independent. But in September 1948, the Indian army forcibly occupied the state. Kashmir had an overwhelmingly Muslim majority population. But the Hindu Maharaja formally acceded to India against the wishes of the people. India airlifted her troops and occupied the state capital Srinagar. Kashmir still remains a disputed territory. India does not obey the resolutions of the Security Council which has ordered a free and fair plebiscite in Kashmir. Four wars have been fought between India and Pakistan and two agreements were finalized, but the problem of Kashmir remains unsolved mainly because of unfair and stubborn attitude of India.

Besides all these uncertainties Pakistan was successful in overcoming its initial problem.