

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

A system of government in which people directly elect representatives to the parliament is known as Parliamentary democracy. The parliament elects the prime minister from within its members who through the parliament is directly answerable to the people. The parliament is responsible for making laws and taking other important decisions for the country.

Subjecting third world countries, the common people in these countries have some specific justified expectations from potential leadership while most of their demands are usually unjustified not qualifying on merit and fair play. Potential candidates who succeeds in painting the healthiest picture to the people succeeds. Host of other factors like lack of education, ethnicity, baradarism and corruption of candidates all contribute meaningfully to the success in election process. Making false promises to the some justified and some unjustified demands of the majority illiterate populous, the great number of criminals makes it to the corridors of power after spending millions, to be recovered as the first holy task on attaining access to the treasury. And unattainable promises by the potential leaders over most of which they fail to deliver. The whole structure therefore, stands on one cheating the other with absolute disregard to deliverance and merit.

Pakistan in its almost 70 years of history has experienced both presidential and parliamentary systems and neither has delivered to the satisfaction of the majority. This is not for any fault in the system but its faulty and self-centered implementation by the people running it. The periods of our presidential governments were all headed by martial laws hence strongly opposed by the political elite of the time as they considered it their natural honor and right to rule the country. There is no denying the fact that the local bodies system considered the soul of democracy and also serving as the nursery of future leadership were not only introduced during our presidential regimes but also delivered at the grass root level whenever empowered. Most of the presidents being ex-military men while possessing total powers could not deliver to the expectations as they were troubled by lack of rightfulness and political constituency thus resorting to measures mostly for continuing their regimes costing dearly to the system and the country in the long run.

On the other side, whenever the political elite came into power, the local bodies system was postponed for their interests. In our parliamentary democracy, elected members of national and provincial assemblies never liked to share their powers with political workers at grassroots level. In principle, their prime responsibility being only legislation but in practice they are keener in

development projects for obvious reasons. Even if we disregard the aspect of corruption and kickbacks for a moment, yet they want to remain relevant to their voters for securing their future election. Almost everywhere in the world however, developmental works fall in the domain of local governments. If we evaluate the recent past then despite having almost two full tenures of parliamentary democracy the local bodies system remains in midpoint due to political weakness. Considering Pakistan`s internal dynamics some of the differences experienced with the parliamentary system are; (**weakness**)

One, the country being low on literacy and having no mature local bodies system, it is neither able to offer suitable candidates nor the populous yet groomed desirably to make rightful choices.

Two; with legislative and developmental powers concentrated in the same hands, neither is attended to hence both suffers in the process.

Three; with party based system without local bodies, selective areas are chosen for developmental works thereby depriving other areas from the fruits of development.

Four; with majority population concentrated in Punjab , only that political party can be in a position to form government at Islamabad which gets maximum seats from the province thus continually rejecting the opportunity of federal leadership to smaller provinces.

Five; in our parliamentary system where there is hardly any intra party election, the party leadership revolves around one figure who is mostly focused on passing the baton to family kith and kin thus depriving the party and country to genuine leadership.

Six; in most cases party leadership is held hostage by few financially strong and influential party members applying effective breaks on emerging potential leadership.

Seven; the increasing role of money in politics effectively denies honest and experienced people the opportunity to participate thus depriving the country of their talent and contributions.

FORMATION OF FIRST CABINET

The newly created state of Pakistan formed its first constituent assembly in August 1947. Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah took oath on 15th August 1947 and became the first Governor General of Pakistan. He exercised a great amount of influence on the provincial, as well as, central affairs. The first cabinet of Pakistan was also created by Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah, after a continuous search for talented administrators and included the following members:

1. Liaquat Ali Khan Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defense
2. I.I. Chundrigar Minister for Commerce, Industries and Works
3. Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar Minister for Communications
4. Raja Ghazanfar Ali Minister for Food, Agriculture and Health (In December he was shifted to Evacuee and Refugee Rehabilitation).
5. Jogendra Nath Mandal Minister for Labour and Law
6. Ghulam Muhammad Minister for Finance
7. Fazlur Rahman Minister for Interior, Information and Education

In December Muhammad Zafrullah Khan was inducted as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Common wealth relations and Abdus Sattar Pirzada was given the portfolio of Food, Agriculture and Health. Raja Ghazanfar Ali's ministry was changed and he was made in charge of the Ministry of Evacuee and Refugee Rehabilitation.

QUAID-E-AZAM'S DECISIONS

Quaid-i-Azam became first Governor General of the nascent state of Pakistan on August 15, 1947. The new responsibility was like bed of thrones for him. The new country was faced with lot of problems like refugee rehabilitation, issue of princely states, non-availability of a workable system for running affairs of the State, framing of new constitution and financial strains etc. Quaid-i-Azam tackled these problems boldly and with failing health in such a manner that its similar can not be found rarely in history of the world. Quaid-i-Azam was fully aware of the part played by Muslims of India in the creation of Pakistan.

Journey to Different Parts of Country:- During the short period that he lived after the creation of Pakistan, he undertook "despite failing health long and arduous journey to the remotest parts of the country in an effect to keep up the confidence and moral of the people." Quaid-i-Azam laid down correct examples and traditions for the growth of a democratic Pakistan. For instance,

despite insistence of the people, he declined to accept Presidentship of Muslim League as “he considered it inconsistent with his position as Head of the State.”

Shortage of treasury and Funds:- The nascent state of Pakistan was engulfed with shortage of funds and requirements of the State as he told Begum Shah Nawaz “only twenty crores of rupees in the treasury and nearly rupees forty crores of bills lying on the table.” Beside appealing for funds, he introduced a note of simplicity and austerity into the conduct of offices.

Govt servants and Politics:- Quaid-i-Azam was fully aware of the role of officials taking interest in politics are being pulled to serve political ends. In his talk to Government Officers at Peshawar on 15 April 1948, he emphasized, “you should have no hand in supporting this political party or that political party, this political leader or that political leader—this is not your business.... Your duty is not only to serve that government loyally and faithfully, but, at the same time, fearlessly, maintaining your high reputation, your honour and the honesty of your service.”

Quaid-i-Azam being a constitutionalist was firm believer and staunch supporter of rule of law. According to the A.D.C. of Quaid-i-Azam, Major Gul Hasan, “around 400 government servants assembled before the gates of Governor General House, for a protest, the staff asked for permission to disseminate the protestors through lathi charge, but Quaid-i-Azam, told the staff that peaceful protest is their constitutional right.”

Quaid-i-Azam was in favor of giving provincial autonomy to the provinces. It is evident from the fact that right from his Fourteen Points till establishment of Pakistan, he always emphasized provincial autonomy.

Education:- Quaid-i-Azam firmly believed that no nation can consolidate without education. In a message to All India Educational Conference, he said, “There is no doubt that the future of our state will, and must, greatly depend on the type of education, we give to our children. There is immediate and urgent need for giving scientific and technical education to our people and at the same time, we have to build up the character of our future generation.” He held the first Educational Conference in 1947. He wished that every citizen of Pakistan should serve his nation with honesty and national spirit. he made nation with honesty and national spirit. He made acquisition of scientific and technological education compulsory for the students. Quaid-i-Azam did a lot to improve education policy of the country.

Economical and financial development:- Quaid-i-Azam stressed on the economical and financial development of the country. “The organizations like Muhammadi Shipments, Orient Airways, Habib Bank, Muslim Commercial Bank, All India Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Industries and Printing Press came into being.” On eve of opening ceremony of State Bank of Pakistan, he said, “I shall watch with keenness the work of your research organization in evolving banking practices compatible with Islamic ideals of social and economic life.” In another occasion addressing a gathering at Chittagong, he said, “you are only voicing my sentiments and the sentiments of millions of Musalmans when you say that Pakistan should be based on sure foundations of social justice and Islamic socialism—no other ‘ism’—which emphasize equality and brotherhood of man. Similarly you are voicing my thoughts in asking and aspiring for equal opportunity for all.”

Quaid-i-Azam believed in a foreign policy based on peace, calmness and cooperation. On eve of the inauguration of Pakistan Broadcasting Service, he said, “Our object should be peace with in and peace without. We want to live peacefully and maintain pleasant, friendly relations with our immediate neighbours and with the world at large.”

Identifying the ‘sovereign’ in Pakistan:- To create a powerful governing body to control the state. The most important part of the address, however, is not Jinnah’s advice to the Constituent Assembly, sound as that advice has proved in the decades that followed. The cornerstone of the speech is that Jinnah is addressing soon-to-be-independent Pakistan’s ‘sovereign’ institution – the Constituent Assembly:

I cordially thank you, with the utmost sincerity, for the honour you have conferred upon me – the greatest honour that is possible for this sovereign Assembly to confer – by electing me as your first President....The Constituent Assembly has got two main functions to perform. The first is the very difficult and responsible task of framing our future constitution of Pakistan and the second of functioning as a full and complete sovereign body as the Federal Legislature of Pakistan... remember that you are now a sovereign legislative body and you have got all the powers. It, therefore, places on you the gravest responsibility as to how you should take your decisions.

Civilian supremacy:- Jinnah encouraged the civil supremacy in the country (See article attached).

A merit-based, apolitical (Not interested in politics) and professional civil service:- Jinnah also encouraged the merit based and not interested in politics civil service peoples (see article also).

Industrial revolution:-

Jinnah had engaged with the problem of Muslim socioeconomic backwardness for decades in British India.²¹ For the most part, Jinnah felt that the Muslims had failed to rise to the challenge of modernity and that after they lost their political and military position to the British they retreated into the delusional world of traditionalism, which, in turn, reinforced their backwardness with each passing generation. Jinnah sought to revive the temporal power of the Muslims of South Asia and eventually realized that the desired renaissance necessitated the creation of a separate sovereign state. (See article also).

A powerful center

Pakistan came into existence as a federation of provinces and princely states that had either voted to join the new country or had acceded to it. Jinnah had been a vocal and effective proponent of provincial autonomy during British rule and, reference the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, which would have kept India united as a loose confederation, the Muslim League had accepted the proposal. Jinnah's views on the question of provincial autonomy changed considerably after he became governor-general. The task of state-building amidst a crisis situation necessitated greater centralization and Jinnah was annoyed by the provincial political leaderships' refusal to abandon their petty rivalries and intrigues even in a national emergency. (See article for details).

Foreign Policy

In foreign policy also the Quaid guided Pakistan and helped establishment of friendly relations with various countries of the world. In his interview to Dr. Eric Steiff, special correspondent of the Neue Zurcher Zeitung of Zurich, Switzerland, on 11 March 1948, the Quaid, when asked about relations with India, said that peaceful settlement of problems and disputes with India was possible only if "the Indian Government will shed the superiority complex and will deal with Pakistan on an equal footing and will fully appreciate the realities." (See article also).

Pakistan's First Cabinet

As soon as the Quaid-i-Azam took an immediate action and nominated members of the Federal Cabinet to run the Government affairs smoothly. Liaquat Ali Khan was elected as the Prime

Minister. Other members of the cabinet were also nominated. This first cabinet of Pakistan took oath on 15th August 1947.

Constitutional Problems

The Act of 1935 was amended and enforced in the country as there was no constitution available of the newly born state. Thus this great achievement was done under the administrative leadership of the Quaid-i-Azam. (See article)

Establishment of Capital

Karachi was made Capital of Pakistan. (See article)

Establishment of Administrative Head Quarters

For the administrative reformation, a committee was set up and Chaudhry Muhammad Ali was made the Secretary General. Civil Services were re-organized and Civil Services Academy was constituted. The Secretariat was established. Moreover, Head quarters for Army, Navy and Air Force were set up. An ammunition factory was also set up. See articles

Attention to Foreign Affairs

Realizing the sensitivity of foreign affairs, Quaid-i-Azam paid his utmost attention to the Foreign Policy. He developed healthy relations with the neighboring and developed countries that were the main objective of the Foreign Policy.

Membership of UNO

After independence, Quaid-i-Azam paid immediate attention for acquiring membership of the United Nations Organization (UNO). On 30th September 1947, Pakistan became the member of the UNO. This all, was done under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam.

In the Service of Pakistan

Quaid-i-Azam served his country till his death. Despite his bad health, he kept on going through the important files. He succumbed to deadly disease of consumption.