

# FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT SINDH

**By: Sindh United Party (SUP)**

*The Material and figures given in this article have been taken from a booklet compiled by Dr. Ershad Kazmi and published by Sindh United Party under the title “Ameer Sindh Jo Ghareeb Awam” in June 2008. That booklet was distributed in the “Provincial Autonomy Seminar” held under the auspices of SUP at Hotel Beach Luxury on 7th June 2008.*

- Population: 30439893 (as per 1998 census) and 42378000 (approximately as in 2008)
- Districts: 23
- Talukas (Administrative units within a District): 87
- Metropolitan/ Municipal Corporations: 9
- Municipal Committees: 31
- Town Committees: 116
- Army Cantonments: 8
- Villages/ Dehs: 5871
- Average population per km<sup>2</sup>: 216
- Ratio of urban population (living in Metropolitan/Municipal Corporations, Municipal Committees and Town Committees) 48.8%
- Ratio of rural population: 51.2%

*Source: Pakistan Government's Population Census Organization and Federal Bureau of Statistics*

## Natural Resources

### Coal

Sindh has 99% coal reservoirs of Pakistan. These are located in Lakhra, Soondha, Thar, Meeting-Jhampeer and Badin. Among these, Thar coal reservoirs are the largest in the world.

- Lakhra: 1.328 billion tonnes
- Soondha: 7.612 billion tonnes
- Thar: 78.196 billion tonnes
- Badin: 9.000 billion tonne
- Meeting - Jhampeer: 0.161 Billion Tonnes

**Total: 96.297 billion tonnes**

*Source: Sindh Coal Authority*

### Natural Gas

There are 10 gas fields in Sindh from where natural gas is extracted. These are: Kandhkoat, Khairpur, Mari (The largest gas field where 20% gas is stored and 18% gas is produced/ used), Suri/Hundi, Golarchi, Khaskheli and Leghari. Sindh produces 48% of natural gas of Pakistan.

The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) daily extracts 986 MMCF of natural gas, 368 tonnes of LPG and 71 tonnes of sulphur. The gas is sold at the rate of 137.96 rupees per MCF.

### Crude Oil/Petrol

Sindh produces 62% of oil of Pakistan. OGDCL sales 43642 barrel of oil per day at the rate of 64.79 dollars per barrel.

## **Agriculture**

Agriculture is the backbone of Sindh's economy. The main crops of Sindh in summer season include cotton, rice, sugarcane, sorghum, millet, sweet corn, and different pulses, while the wheat is the main crop of the winter season. Sindh produces all sorts of vegetables and fruits such as banana, mango, lemon, orange, grape fruit, strawberry, cherry, peach, cheekoo and guava.

## **Cattles, Poultry and Fish**

Cows: 3873883  
Buffaloes: 3220094  
Sheep: 2615984  
Goat: 6755234  
Camel: 217853  
Horse: 75850  
Donkeys: 500160  
Mules: 5372  
Poultry/ chicken/hens: 8797905

*Source: Pakistan Census of Live Stock 1996*

## **Fish**

1139919 metric tons of fish are captured from different water habitats. 64400 tons of fish is captured from sea. Pakistan's fish export is worth 133 million dollars. The entire fish comes from Sindh and Balochistan.

*Source: Fish Folk Forum and International Trade Statistics (ITS)*

## **The proportion of different taxes collected by Sindh for the Federal Government**

- Direct Taxes: 67.65%
- Income Tax: 86.40%
- Wealth Tax: 63.21%
- Capital Gains Tax: 32.60%
- Workers Welfare Fund: 45.53%
- Indirect Taxes: 68.32%
- General Sales Tax (GST): 62.10%
- Federal Excise Duty: 39.40%

*Source: Planning and Development Department, Government of Sindh*

## **National Finance Commission (NFC) Award**

The British Rule introduced the concept of participatory development and they developed the communication, irrigation, education, law and judiciary systems and provided constitution to united India in 1937. During British Rule, the Sales Tax (GST) was a provincial tax but at the inception of Pakistan, making the emergency conditions as a pretext the Federal government snatched Karachi from Sindh and later on taken 50% of Sales Tax from Government of Sindh in order to control the financial deficit of Pakistan.

The federal government instead of respecting the 1940 Resolution (inter provincial social pact) and giving the provincial autonomy to all its provinces imposed ONE UNIT over 4 provinces just for sake of demonstrating equality to the then largest province, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Sindh was made a colony for the immigrants from India in an organized and planned way. Hundreds of thousands of acres of

agricultural land were allotted to non-Sindhis (Civil and army bureaucracy) in Sukhar, Gudu and Kotri barrage areas.

After 25 years of Pakistan creation no justice and fair system/ dealings were delivered by the Federal Government towards Sindh. In 1974, the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, instead of returning 50% GST (taken in the 1940s) to the Sindh snatched the remaining 50% and announced it as 100% Federal Tax. GST is never considered as Federal Tax in any part of the world, it always remains as provincial or regional tax. In 1974, first NFC award was announced after which the military came in to the power. General Zia ul Haque announced two NFC awards in 1979 and in 1985. 1979 commission was never called while 1985 commission did not reach to an agreement. Mr. Jawed Sultan Jappan wala, the then finance minister refused to sign a totally unjustified award. In 1997, Sindh again went under a ruthless betrayal by an undertaker government which had no lawful, justified and moral right of doing so.

## **Background**

Up to this point in time, in all seven NFC awards, the distribution of resources has been done on the only indicator, that is population. Nowhere in the world, under a federal government system, the resources are distributed on the basis of only one indicator i.e. population. For example in India NFC award is distributed on 11 parameters. Having majority in population does not mean that the province contribute and consumes more resources. Therefore, this exercise does not fulfill the criteria of justice and equality. Hence, the distribution of NFC on multiple parameters is very essential.

In 1991 NFC Award, three taxes were under the federal government distribution pool:

- Income Tax (Including Corporate Tax)
- General sales Tax (GST)
- Central Excise Duty (CED)

Custom tax was under jurisdiction of Federal Government and was not part of the distribution pool in the NFC award. However, above mentioned three taxes were in that pool. The following formula was in use for distribution among federal/ central and provinces:

- Federal / Central Government: 20%
- Provincial Government: 80%

In 1997 NFC award, the federal Government included the custom duty in to the distribution pool and beside this changed the formula of distribution among centre and provinces:

- Central Government: 62.5
- Provincial Government: 37.5

As a result of this formula the 2/3 of resources became the property to the central government while the remaining 1/3 came to the share of all provinces. Apart from NFC, the income generated to the federal government from other resources excluding taxes, the provinces do not get the equal proportion. With reference of foreign loans, grants and development projects, principles of justification and equal distributions are also not followed.

## **The share given by provinces in the distribution pool**

### **Year 1999-2000**

1. Sindh: 189.461 Billion Rupees, 63.7%
2. Punjab: 77.912 Billion Rupees, 26.21%
3. NWFP: 22.046 Billion Rupees, 7.42%
4. Baluchistan: 7.800 Billion Rupees, 2.62%

**On the basis of population census of 1981 and 1998, the share given to provinces from the Federal distribution pool:**

NO	Province	As per population census of 1981	As per population census of 1998
1	Punjab	57.88 Billion Rupees	58.38 Billion Rupees
2	Sindh	23.28 Billion Rupees	23.72 Billion Rupees
3	NWFP	13.54 Billion Rupees	13.82 Billion Rupees
4	Baluchistan	5.30 Billion Rupees	5.07 Billion Rupees

*Source: Combined Finance and Revenue Accounts and Finance Division, Government of Pakistan*

Due to having no provincial autonomy, control and ownership of resources, distribution of NFC award on the population basis let us see where Sindh stands in terms of the social indicators:

## Education

- 8000 schools of Sindh are closed
- 3 out of 5 children aged between 5-9 do not go to school
- Every 6 minutes 4 children quit the school for good
- Overall literacy rate of Sindh is 51%
- 65% of urban population of Sindh is literate
- 35% of rural population of Sindh is literate

*Asian Development Bank and Education Department, Government of Sindh*

## Health

- Annual budget: 7590000000 (7.59 Billion Rs) - about 3% of provincial budget
- The required number of doctors with reference to population: 30000
- The number of doctors available in the Government hospitals: 13000
- Additional doctors required in government hospitals: 17000
- Total number of government hospitals: 1366
- No of hospital closed out of 1366: 50%
- 80% of hospitals have no specialist doctor available
- 60% of women are facing psychological/ psychiatric problems
- 53% of men are facing psychological/psychiatric problems
- 40% of province's total population (42300000 - 42.3 million) is hepatitis positive
- 26% of population do not have access to drinkable water
- 58% of population has no sanitation facility
- There are no medical superintendents in 25 Taluka headquarter hospitals of the province
- The infant mortality rate ( new born mortality rate) is 95 per 1000 births  
Every 20 minutes one woman dies due to the pregnancy or delivery related complications  
64% of pregnant women give birth in hands of untrained medical staff  
Only 38% children of the province are fully immunized.

*Source: Asian Development Bank, UNICEF, Ministry of Health, Government of Sindh, and other resources*

## Employment / Unemployment

Almost 60% of population of province is unemployed, of which 25% are educated, graduate, postgraduate, engineers, doctors, accounting and management professionals.

Out of 3000 existing factories of province, only 50 factories belong to Sindhis and the 95% of employed labour is non-Sindhi.

*Source: Journal of Third World Studies*

### **The number of Sindhis in Federal Departments and the Armed Forces**

- 5% of employees working in the federal departments are Sindhis.
- There are only 2% Sindhis in armed forces of Pakistan
- Only 3 Sindhis were working as federal secretaries as on 30/05/2008

*Source: Journal of Third World Studies*

### **Water shortage**

Due to shortage of river water, the agriculture economy has lost 42 Billion rupees in four years time.

*Source: Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC)*

### **Lack of Investment**

6 billion dollars (450 billion Rs) were invested in Pakistan in the last 5 years but industrial areas of Sindh have not benefited from this investment.

*Source: SPDC and Chairman SITE, Karachi*

### **Landless people**

- The 60% (2 million) of families living in the rural areas have no land.
- The land holdings available to 26% rural families in Sindh is on average smaller than any where else in Pakistan.

*Source: Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC)*

### **Crimes (Year 2007)**

- Killings/Murder: 2167
- Gang rape: 27
- Attempt to murder: 3080
- Kidnapping: 1654
- Honour killings: 96
- Kidnapping for money: 145
- Severely injured (quarrel): 889
- Children kidnapped: 136
- Minor injuries (quarrel): 1823
- Suicides: 195
- In fights: 3077
- Attempt to suicide: 4163
- Attacks on police: 1258
- Dacoits: 1495
- Sexual abuse: 168
- Robberies: 4505
- Houses burglaries: 2127
- Other crimes: 8904

*Source: Sindh Police, Bureau of Police Research and Development, interior division, Islamabad*

### **Absolute Poverty**

50% of Sindh's population (42.3 millions) is under poverty line and live a very miserable life. Sindh is target of injustice since the inception of Pakistan; whereas, in real sense Sindh is the creator of Pakistan. The rulers of Pakistan have enormously devastated Sindh by usurping its all resources. Here they use Islam,

socialism, democracy and martial law as weapon to exploit Sindh. Military regimes have never ever given any relief to the people of Sindh which continue to occur even during so-called democratic governments.

*Note: These facts and figures have been collated by Sindh United Party (SUP) and distributed on 07/06/2008 in order to make public aware of the current situation of Sindh.*

***Sindh United Party (SUP)*** is a group of politically active Sindhis who believe in constitutional rights of Sindh and endeavor, while remaining in federation of Pakistan, to obtain legitimate national rights of Sindh, project, economical, cultural interests by peaceful political means, and struggle for Sindh's independent identity, self rule and autonomy.  
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