

## Chapter 6

**Z.A. BHUTTO**

On 20th December, 1971 General Yahya Khan stepped down and handed over the power to Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Chairman Pakistan People's Party. The PPP had won majority in 1970 general elections. It had 85 seats out of 144 in West Pakistan.

When Z.A. Bhutto stepped in, East Pakistan had already been separated from the rest of the country and emerged as the sovereign state of Bangladesh. The separation of East Pakistan was mainly due to the Indian aggression. After the fall of East Pakistan power had to be given to Z.A. Bhutto who was the leader of the majority party in West Pakistan. Bhutto became the first Civilian Martial Law Administrator and President of Pakistan on 20th December, 1971.

**SIMLA AGREEMENT**

After stepping in as the President of Pakistan, Bhutto's first major assignment was the conclusion of Simla Agreement with India. When the war ended in East Pakistan, India took away nearly 93000 POWs of Pakistan.

Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and Mr. Z.A. Bhutto, President of Pakistan, met at Simla to negotiate the return of POWs. On 3 July, 1972, Simla Agreement was concluded between India and Pakistan. With the conclusion of agreement both India and Pakistan agreed to withdraw their troops to the pre-December 1971 war position.

By Simla Agreement both India and Pakistan agreed to resolve their differences and disputes without resorting to the use of force in the light of the UN Charter. They also agreed to restore diplomatic relations and taking further steps for the normalization of relations.

**BHUTTO'S REFORMS****1. NATIONALIZATION PROGRAMME**

Bhutto's first step towards his introduction of radical changes in the economic sector was the nationalization of the key industries. In January 1972 Government of PPP took over 31 industrial units. The taken over industries included iron and steel, basic metals, heavy engineering, heavy electrical, motor vehicles, tractor plants, heavy and basic chemicals and petrochemicals. A Board of Industrial Management was set up under federal minister of production to manage the nationalized industries. The step was taken to put an end to sheer exploitation done by few industrialists.

The second phase of nationalization began in 1973 and was completed in 1976. During this phase mainly the rice husking units were nationalized. The Government also took-over cotton, sugar and cooking oil industries because of hoarding.

The private commercial banks were also nationalized. Flour mills, cotton, ginning factories and rice husking mills were taken over in 1976.

## 2. LAND REFORMS

The PPP regime announced land reforms on March 1, 1972. The land-holdings were restricted to 150 acres irrigated land in the first phase (1972) and later to 100 acres in the second phase (1977).

The land-holdings with respect to unirrigated land was fixed at 300 acres in 1972 and 200 acres in 1977. Total ceiling after 1977 was fixed at 250 acres of irrigated land and 500 acres of unirrigated land.

## 3. EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

Bhutto's regime laid great emphasis on making the education free and compulsory. The education policy was announced in March 1972. There was a two phase programme to accomplish the target of educational policy.

- (i) First phase was announced in Oct. 1972. During this phase education was made free and compulsory upto class eight.
- (ii) Second phase was announced in Oct. 1974 and the education was made free and compulsory upto class ten.
- (iii) New educational institutions/schools were to be opened to meet the requirement of compulsory and free education.
- (iv) All privately owned and managed schools and educational institutions were nationalized.
- (v) Three new Universities at Saidu, Multan and Sukkur were set up and five new Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education at Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Saidu and Khairpur were established.
- (vi) Engineering Colleges in Karachi, Jamshoro and Peshawar were upgraded to the Universities level.
- (vii) A UGC was set-up.

## 4. LABOUR REFORMS

Bhutto's regime introduced labour reforms in 1972-73 to pacify the labour force and to implement PPP's election manifesto that "Socialism is our economy". The labour reforms were as follows.

- (i) All the workers of the industrial concerns, were given medical cover, compensation for injuries at work, compulsory group insurance and safeguards against arbitrary termination of service.
- (ii) Under the Labour Laws Ordinance of 1975, steps were taken to check the undue formation of trade unions.
- (iii) The Industrialists and factory owners were made responsible to bear the expenditures of the education of at least one child of every worker employed in their factory.
- (iv) New rules were announced regarding the bonus, gratuity, leave compensation and retirement.
- (v) Social Security scheme was compulsorily applied to all the industries.

## 5. FOREIGN POLICY

When Mr. Bhutto took over the reins of the country, Pakistan's image had been badly tarnished due to its defeat in the BD war in 1971. In order to re-build Pakistan's image, Bhutto embarked upon the tour of friendly Muslim countries. Bhutto undertook tours of twenty-two countries and explained his foreign policy to all the nations he visited. He also visited China and former USSR which were of great importance. Bhutto's reforms in domestic politics and his foreign policy of bilateral relationship made a healthy impact on the public opinion in the US. Consequently the ties of friendship between US and Pakistan were renewed and the US economic assistance became available.



The Second Summit Conference of the OIC held at Lahore in Feb., 1974. It was a great achievement under the leadership of Mr. Bhutto. It gave a tremendous boost to Pakistan's reputation on the International level. Bhutto emerged as an articulate statesman and elevated position amongst the world's statesmen and politicians. At the end of the Summit a Joint Communiqué known as "Lahore Declaration" was issued.

#### 6. GENERAL ELECTIONS 1977

Bhutto regime announced general elections in 1977. The objective was to seek public mandate for the second term.

With the announcement of the general elections nine political parties joined together to contest elections against Mr. Bhutto's PPP. The opposition parties formed an alliance known as Pakistan National Alliance (PNA). PNA launched a blistering campaign against PPP and exposed Mr. Bhutto's autocratic and undemocratic political culture. PNA gave its manifesto and promised to set up a just and democratic society under the Nizam-e-Mustafa. Elections to NA were held on March 7, 1977. PPP got 154 seats which bewildered the nation. PNA could collect only 38 seats but rejected the election results and accused the PPP regime of heavy rigging in the elections and boycotted the PA elections.

#### 7. PNA MOVEMENT

PNA declared the election results as total farce and demanded fresh elections under the judiciary and army. PNA also demanded the resignations of the Chief Election Commissioner and the PM Mr. Bhutto. PNA launched a country-wide movement against the PPP regime.

Mr. Bhutto rejected PNA's demands. Strikes and agitations were held throughout the country which shook the Government. PNA movement soon turned into a bloody civil war. Government agencies like FSF and

Rangers were involved which tried to crush the protesters.

On April 19, 1977 the army was called in Lahore, Hyderabad and Karachi. Martial Law was imposed in Karachi, Hyderabad and Lahore. The situation in country worsened which compelled Mr. Bhutto to start negotiations with PNA delegation. The PNA delegation consisted of Mufti Mahmood, Prof. Ghafoor and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. However the negotiations between Mr. Bhutto and PNA failed. Law and order situation deteriorated. The then COAS General M. Zia-ul-Haq imposed Martial Law in the country on July 5, 1977.