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Introduction

After a decade Afghan officials say that the government and international community's 12 years counter narcotics and fight against poppy cultivation and opium production had not visible outcome. According to the ministry of counter narcotics, they have not developed a new strategy in which they called for assistance and cooperation of the neighboring countries for exchanging information, arresting the smugglers and importing the chemical materials to Afghanistan.

According to the Ministry of Counter Narcotics officials, the smugglers of the narcotics receive more than \$70 billion from this channel which also caused insecurity and instability in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is the biggest producer of opium in the world, but the chemical materials for further processing are imported from other countries to Afghanistan. It is a fact that in spite of counter narcotics programs in last decade the level of its production is being increased or the different aspects of the production of narcotics and its route causes has been analyzed in this analysis.

The other important issue is the Afghanistan's foreign policy that had shortcomings in the past few years. Since Afghanistan is one of the third world country with different problems and needs for international cooperation and assistance, what are the core needs of its foreign policy? According to the historical facts what were the required steps that should have been taken? How can the government protect Afghanistan's national interests in the relation with outside world?

CSRS' weekly analysis board has analyzed these two issues in the following topics:

Afghanistan: problems in struggling against narcotics



After the oil and weapons drugs trade is biggest in the world. Surveys of the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC) show that Afghanistan produces \$7 billion worth drugs annually. The production has increased by 40% since 2001 fall of Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Opium cultivation statistics in 2014:

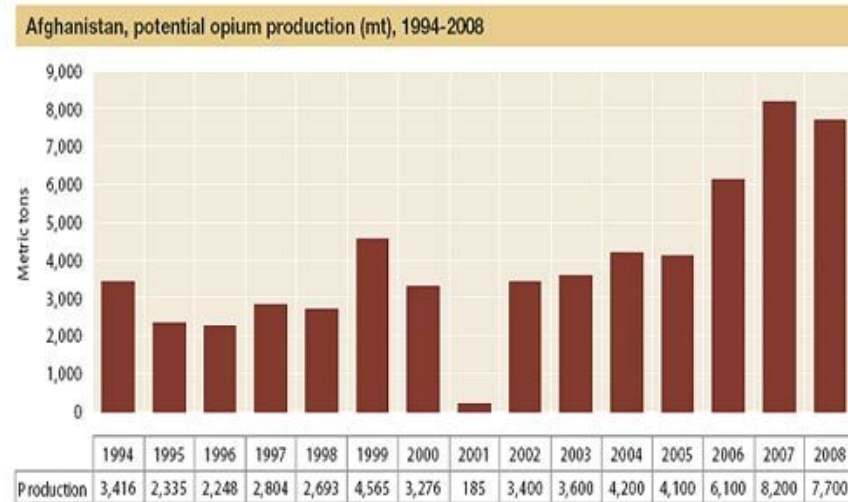
This year around 250,000 hectares of opium was cultivated, but the land that has been destroyed is as following:

- Helmand 901 hectares
- Uruzgan 131 hectares
- Zabul 12 hectares
- Kandahar 96 hectares

There is no clear information about destroying the opium cultivated land in Farah, Nimroz and other provinces and this year as well, from the total 250000 hectares land under cultivation of opium only 1138 hectares has been destroyed. The officials say that these shortcomings are because of involvement of security forces in protecting election process or we can say the drugs Mafia gets advantage of the election as well.

Whether last year's record is will be broken?

If we see the last few year's surveys by organizations such as UNODC, in 2001 or the last year of



Taliban's rule, the opium production was 185 tons this also included the previous year's production which were stored by the smugglers.

Mullah Mohammad Omar the Taliban's leader in a decree in 2001 banned the cultivation of the poppy. After the Taliban regime's fall, the graph of the production of opium in

Afghanistan has been growing. The 2009 survey which has been published by UNODC shows this fact:

In 2009 the production of opium was 6900 tons. 2010 onwards the land under the poppy cultivation increased, thus the foreign troops increased strewing the destroying medicament from air which caused decreasing the production to 3700 tons, and therefore the farmers increased the land under the cultivation of poppy and increased the production graph to 5500 tons in 2013, and this year the cultivation which was stopped in some regions resumed again.

Afghanistan's benefit from poppy cultivation:

According to UNODC, from 2001 to 2010 drugs worth of \$70 billion has been produced, but the question is how much of this amount came to the farmers?

According to UNODC report, from the \$70 billion just \$2 billion went to farmer's pockets and the \$66 billion went to drug smugglers and mafia inside and outside the country. This organization believes that \$200 million of this amount (\$20 million each year) went to insurgents and government's militant opposition.

In past years a strong propaganda has been made about anti poppy cultivation. Alternate cultivation and encouragement of farmers for not cultivating poppy were amongst the programs. It is said that during the 12 years more than \$7 billion dollars were spent for this

purpose; but it is not clear that where this entire amount went? But apparently the farmers did not benefit from that amounts.

The alternative:

One of the ways for counter narcotics or fight against poppy cultivation is promotion of an alternative cultivation, which caused encouragement of saffron cultivation in some provinces but in some others there were obstacles against it.

The first obstacle was war and insecurity in Afghanistan, which challenges government's authority in most of the regions. Therefore until peace hasn't come, preventing poppy cultivation seems impossible.

Corruption is another problem which challenges an efficient fight against poppy cultivation. However military officials declared in press releases that they have arrested some smugglers, but none of the major smugglers has been arrested yet. This is because of presence of these smugglers in the government.

The product of the poppy is another incentive for the poor farmers. The product of the poppy on one hectare land in Afghanistan is averagely 55kg, while in other South Asian lands each hectare gives 15kg opium.

Other types of drugs are also grown well in Afghanistan, according to UNODC report cannabis (which gives hashish lately) in comparison with other countries grows very good in Afghanistan. This plant gives 145kg/hectare in Afghanistan, while in Morocco gives just 40kg. Therefore Afghanistan is also the biggest producer of hashish in the world.

Average price of per kg opium is \$200 in Afghanistan which is a good income for poor Afghan farmers who has limited land; they consider it beneficial to plant rather than licit crops.

Foreign hands:

This question is still not answered that why the opium production in Afghanistan increased since 2001? It is said that the world desire for opium is 5000 tons each year, but in Afghanistan in some years more than this need has been produced and the rate is not changed, while this is a formula in economy that while the market is overloaded the rates became lower.

It is reason is more political than economic, there are some secret strives to addict more people with this malady, and this program focused mostly on the countries who have problems with

USA, like Russian federation and Iran. The large amount of Heroin from Afghanistan goes to or through these countries which caused a big social and economic problem for these countries. The number of addicts in Afghanistan also increased to more than 2 million.

A glance to these facts shows that the cultivation of poppy in Afghanistan was prevalent from the past, but after the foreign presence in Afghanistan it hit all the records.

The big amount of the opium produced in Afghanistan is converted to Heroin within Afghanistan and then is exported to other countries. For converting for instance 6000 metric tons of opium to 600 metric ton of Heroin there are 10000 tons of chemical material. These materials cannot be produced in Afghanistan, so they must be imported, but from which ways all these chemical materials come to Afghanistan?

On the other hand, exporting hundreds of metric tons of heroin to other regions like Europe is by land transit, which is not possible without assistance of the officials with the mafia in the countries from which the heroin are being smuggled.

A huge amount of these drugs are being exported by air, which is also not possible without governmental official's assistance with the mafia. Therefore one can understand why the production of opium had increasingly growth since 2001.

Finally, the question rises that how the obstacles to approving money laundering law, which has apparent and secret hands involved in, relate to the income generated from illicit drug trade.

Major necessities of Afghanistan's future foreign policy



Since each country in the current international system needs interactions, assistances and mutual relation, Afghanistan as country in third world with low position in the ranking also need interactions and assistances with other countries.

Historically, Afghanistan had a significant role in international politics and still has. In Ghaznavi era, Balkh, Herat and Ghazni were capitals of civilizations. In Duran era the core of foreign Afghan policy was defense of Indian Muslims, which had deep influence on Indian politics and affected the British colonialism. In early 19 century, along with Tipu Sultan of Mysore and Napoleon of France organized movements against British colonialism and in the same century make itself for involvement in significant global politics and Big Game.

During the first and second world wars, Afghanistan chose a policy which lately reflected in Jawaharlal Nehru and Chu In Lai non-alignment. Also played a significant role during the cold war that saved the world from the fear of war and still plays important role in the today international system.

This short background shows that Afghanistan during the history had an active foreign policy and when has been incapacitated fought for achieving it again.

During the different eras, had various bases, but the important and common one is non-alignment. Now and when for the first time the power being transforming from the elected president to another, the coming government's foreign policy is related directly to his success.

Afghanistan's future foreign policy

Afghanistan is located in the strategic region, where the fight over control of energy resources is going on, new ways on silk routes are under consideration, and the balance of power transforming from the west to this region; on the other hand the country beside of dealing with other countries involved with its neighbors. For balancing all these, a concrete foreign policy is needed. A foreign policy is needed that beside of building constructive interactions with the world, protect the country from foreign interventions and negative impacts of some countries over Afghanistan. Afghan foreign policy must be empowered in the following areas.

1. The need of expansion of relation with different countries:

During the first and second world wars, the conditions of world politics and diplomacy were strict, also during the cold war as well the countries were not prone to the either of blocks and were challenged by a difficult decision. But these countries had not only these two options, but during the cold war, India, China, Indonesia and other countries had beside the options of two blocks (U.S and USSR) the non-alignment movement. Therefore Afghanistan must not have the only one option and relay on that.

It is worth noting that in these both process the countries were to ally with one of the sides in order to protect their interests. If we look at the foreign policy of Afghanistan during the cold war, Afghanistan was joined one of the sides; during the cold war with Russia and now with US. Again the circumstances of the cold war and its last decade are different from today. During the cold war we were to join the Russia's side, and we did not accept the recommendation of the national Jirga to not rely only on one side, but have the support of both blocks. With intervention of the U.S in Afghanistan the world had just one hegemonic superpower the United States of America; therefore the decision makers were relying on America's assistance or were not capable to release themselves from the circle of the superpower's mastery.

But now, when the majority of the nation rejected the strategic agreement with America, but for those who want it for economic assistance must be said that in the today international politics, BRIC or Brazil, Russia, India and China countries are emerged, and Russia challenged the unipolar system, China is the second strong economy which will take over the first economic position, India and Turkey are superpowers of their regions, therefore in accordance with our national interests, we must not stay in the circle of US' pivot.

2. A foreign policy relied on mutual interests

The relation based on mutual interests is more sustainable. Afghanistan must strengthen and deepen its relation with those has mutual interests. With Pakistan for instance if we work together on TAPI or silk routes or other transit ways to central Asia might cause empowerment of Afghanistan's economy on the one hand and encouragement of the neighbouring countries for playing a constructive role in Afghanistan on the other hand.

With Iran and India as well on the Chah Bahar port or transit of energy from Iran to China, Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan and China gas pipeline, or central Asian countries cooperation in electricity all can be mention as examples.

3. Non-alignment once again

In today regional and international politics, when the world paves the way towards multipolar system, we must build constructive relation with all these new emerging superpowers. But also there some countries as well that having deep relations can be considered as breaking the balance, for instance India or Pakistan, Iran or Saudi Arabia, and America or China and Russia.

In the last decades it became clear that whenever our option has been limited to one, Afghanistan faced proxy wars. The attacks on Indian consulates or killing of Indian nationals on the one hand or extreme negative propaganda against Pakistan after the civil war in the country or US entrance to Afghanistan could be visual examples of these proxy wars.

Therefore, that is not suitable for Afghanistan to be in the one side, because the circumstances here are in an indirect proportion and friendship with one part causes hostility with the other one. So the non-alignment with all sides must be applied in order to protect our interests and state.

4. Increasing the soft power of Afghanistan

Afghanistan has a soft power in the region and in the world Islamic community, which has routes in our history, literature and the religion. We must empower our soft power in the region and in the world Islamic community. For instance rebuilding the historic places of Ghazni, Herat and Bamyana to pave the way for the regional tourists; and researches conduct about our poets views who have deep influence on the people in our neighboring countries like Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.

5. Economic diplomacy

According to Jan Tinbergen a world economy theorist's theory; the gravity equation of international trade, which has been succeeded during the past few decades, however the geographic distances between countries might be closer the trade level is high. Therefore that is necessary to increase the trade level of Afghanistan with its neighbors.

The trade is one of the cores of the economy, since we are backward in the field of trade, we must increase the export of dried fruits and other agrarian products which are the core of our international exports. We must formalize our relation with the neighboring countries and India and Russia in order to stabilize our economy as well.