

# Analysis of Existing Situation of Cattle Market and Initiative of New Company

Cattle Markets have been a major source of local government incomes since the colonial times. They are organized by local governments in all of the cities in Punjab like other provinces in Pakistan. The performance of a number of municipal functions actually depends on the revenues generated by the cattle markets. The local governments usually auction the cattle markets (the notified space) to the contractors. The contractors would charge the buyers and sellers of cattle in their contracted markets. This system had strengths and weaknesses. For example, it was easy for the buyers and sellers to undertake transactions. Their problems included extortions, poor services, etc. But instead of correcting their problems, government of the Punjab has privatized them by establishing private companies to look them after. There are many concerns being raised by various quarters on this 'privatization' by other means.

In order to collect citizens' feedback on this issue, PURC invited Ammar Ahmad who is working with Punjab Information Technology Board as GIS Analyst. But he has a decade long experience with the working of cattle markets. He has recently completed a study on the formation of Cattle Market Management Company (CMMC) and its implication on local governments. He provided detailed analysis of the CMMC by comparing it with the cattle market arrangements of the local governments.

He told the participants that Punjab government planned in 2014 to set up CMMC for the purpose of discouraging extortion, corruption, role of middlemen and official mafias in existing Mandis (cattle markets). He shared that a lot of people will be unemployed with the installation of the new CMMC. Farmers, Beoparis, Munshis, Contractors, Dallals, and Puthi wala are main stakeholders in exiting cattle markets but they have not been consulted while announcing these companies. In these CMMC, no contractor, middleman, Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA), etc. will be involved. The government claims that it will help reduce extortion and overcharging claimed by government. E-tagging of animals and fully computerized trading transactions will also play a role in this regard. These new CMMCs will have more facilities than old cattle markets, e.g. boundary walls, infrastructure, vehicle parking, slaughtering facilities, etc. In the end, he concluded that TMAs will lose their major part of income due to these new CMMCs and this is very strong argument to understand, will new CMMC be beneficial. The old cattle markets could easily have been improved with little efforts.