

Federal Minister / Chairperson BISP Ms. Farzana Raja holding a meeting with a high level delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) headed by Debra Kertzman, Director Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade

Division here on Friday at BISP Secretariat.

BISP is a complete social rehabilitation Programme, says Ms. Farzana Raja

Various projects to uplift the lives of downtrodden people have been initiated; ADB and BISP can synergize in social sector programme.

ISLAMABAD: **Benazir Income Support**

Programme (BISP) is a comprehensive social rehabilitation programme and is striving hard to improve the lot of poor and downtrodden segments of the society. To include maximum number of deserving families in the programme, a countrywide poverty scorecard survey has been initiated and so far 50% of the process of this survey has been completed.

Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Ms. Farzana Raja said this while talking to a high level mission of Asian Development Bank (ADB). The mission, led by Ms. Debra Kertzman, Director Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division accompanied by Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam visited **BISP Secretariat** to review the implementation progress of the programme. **Ms. Farzana Raja** informed the mission that the poverty scorecard survey was a complete census and it would be instrumental to improve the services for the poor segments of the society in future. She said that besides monthly cash grant, **BISP** has introduced various measures including life insurance, *Waseela-e-Haq* and *Waseela-e-Rozgar* initiatives to help in achieving the goal of economic betterment of these downtrodden families.

Chairperson BISP said that GSP system has been employed during the poverty scorecard survey to ensure that no deserving family is left out from the process of survey. She informed the mission further that to get benefited from **BISP**; 9 million women have obtained their national identity cards during last two years. Moreover, to improve the delivery mechanism of, monthly cash grant to beneficiary families further, **BISP** has introduced Mobile Phone Banking recently. She said that 192,000 free mobile phones are being distributed among the beneficiary families. She said that **BISP** and ADB could create a synergy in various projects like microfinance, health and conditional cash transfer. **Ms. Debra Kertzman**, head of the mission, on the occasion, appreciated the measure taken by **BISP** and said that these steps would be pivotal in curbing poverty. She said that both the institutions could join hands in various social sector initiatives, especially in the education and health sector.