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**The Role of BISP is highly instrumental in providing immediate relief to flood-victims MS. Farzana Raja informed Iranian Women delegation about the pro-poor initiatives of the programme**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Farzana Raja has said that the providing relief to flood victims and their earliest rehabilitation is top most priority of the Government of Pakistan. She said that BISP is playing significant role in this endeavor being highly instrumental in provision of immediate relief to most vulnerable effecties across Pakistan. She said this while talking to an official Iranian Women Delegation headed by Mrs. Maryam Mojtahedzadeh, Advisor to the President Ahmadinejad. The delegation met her BISP secretariat on Friday.



Mrs. Fatemeh Alia, a female parliamentarian, and the wife of Ambassador of Iran Masha'allah Shakeri were also part of delegation while Irani ambassador himself was also present on the occasion. MS. Farzana Raja appraised the delegation about the devastation caused by the recent floods and said that the majority of the people affected by the floods were already living below the line of poverty. She added that the devastation has even pushed the lower middle class towards poverty and there was urgent need to redress the situation.

Ms. Farzana Raja informed the delegation BISP, as part of government's relief efforts, has taken immediate step keeping in view the problems faced by hapless affecties. Apart from regular benefits, she said, BISP is distributing additional Rs. 12000 to almost one million flood affected beneficiaries of BISP as an immediate relief. She informed the delegation that 6 million of the 20 million flood affected people are already registered with BISP.

The Chairperson of the BISP briefed the delegation about various initiatives of the Programme, including Cash Grant, Emergency Relief Package, Waseela-e-Haq, Health Insurance, Vocational Training Programme and national rollout of Poverty Survey. And said that these initiatives aiming at well being of the marginalized and

under-privileged sections of the society.

The members of the delegation applauded the objectives of BISP and said that Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was not only the daughter of Pakistan but she was also the daughter of Iran. On the occasion, delegation informed the Chairperson of the BISP that 70 tons of relief goods, especially for the flood affected women has been sent to Pakistan by Irani government. The members of the delegation extended invitation to MS. Farzana Raja to visit Iran as part of mutual efforts to exchange views and experiences. The Chairperson of BISP accepted the invitation expressed her gratitude to delegation.