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Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Launches BISP's Health Insurance Programme; Says BISP has become world's biggest social safety initiative;

Health Insurance Programme to bring revolutionary Changes in the Lives of downtrodden segment of society; Says Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja

Islamabad: The Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that he was feeling immense pleasure while inaugurating the Health Insurance Scheme of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) as it was his wish to provide destitute people of the country with such facility. He said that during his first ever speech right after his election as Prime Minister in the year 2008, he had promised to establish BISP and today this programme has become world's biggest such initiative in the social sector. He said this while speaking at a ceremony after launch of health insurance scheme of BISP here at BISP Secretariat Thursday.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani along with Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamaruzzaman Kaira and Federal Minister for Information Technology Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Launching BISP's Health Insurance Programme (Dated: Apr 19, 2012)

Besides others, Madame Farzana Raja, Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Qamaruzzaman Kaira, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Federal Minister

for Information Technology, Shahid Aziz Sideeqi, Chairman State Life Insurance Pakistan and several Federal and Ministers for State were also present on the occasion.

Syed Yousa Raza Gilani said that BISP is an apolitical programme aiming to serve the downtrodden segments of society and its transparency and effectiveness is being acknowledged by the world community today. He said that the programme was started in difficult conditions and I would like to congratulate Madame Farzana Raja and her team for achieving this remarkable success of the programme. He said that some provincial governments keeping in view the success of the programme also launched similar schemes in the social sector. However, he said, such schemes could not bear any fruit because they were lacking proper strategy and besides, they were not having the vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto with them. He said that various governments introduced various schemes over the years but as a result of lack of continuity could not achieve the desired results.

Prime Minister said that to eliminate poverty from the country, BISP would need five years at minimum and ten years at maximum. He said that besides financial assistance, BISP is providing various facilities to its beneficiary families including Waseela-e-Haq, Waseela-e-Rozgar and Waseela-e-Taleem for poverty alleviation. He said that Health Insurance is the latest addition into these facilities and he considers it very significant for the destitute families as they cannot bear the burden in case of any ailing person in the family. He said that after nationwide poverty survey, the number of beneficiary families associated with BISP has risen up to 6 million.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani handing over Benazir Sehat Card to a BISP Beneficiary. Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamaruzzaman Kaira and Federal Minister for Information Technology Raja Pervez Ashraf also present on the occasion. (Dated: Apr 19, 2012)

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that the democratic governments in Pakistan have not been allowed to work throughout the past. He added further that soon after the inception of the government of PPP, some elements started counting the days of the government. He said that anti democratic forces have managed to snatch Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto from us but they couldn't eliminate the thoughts and philosophy of these great leaders. He said that despite of all the intrigues, it has happened first time ever that an elected President has spoken to the joint session of the parliament for the five consecutive occasions, PPP has emerged single largest party in the Senate while people have witnessed the fate of "Tsunami" during the bye-elections.

The Prime Minister said that some people are just astonished on my standing with the president and for not leaving PPP despite all sorts of pressure. He said that President Asif Ali Zardari was nominated as the co-chairman of the party by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto through her will. He said that it's our obligation to stand with the will of our Shaheed leader. He said that everybody needs to work in accordance with the constitution and the law. He added that we are facing courts today despite being in the government however, we cannot be frightened.

Earlier, Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP Madame Farzana Raja said that she was thankful to the Prime Minister for his presence at the launching of Health Insurance scheme of BISP and for the continued support and patronage for the programme. She said that BISP couldn't have achieved this level of success without the complete support from President Zardari and the Prime Minister Gilani.

Madame Farzana Raja said that we are providing the rights of the people including women and youth to them while following the manifesto given by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and in accordance with the vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. She said that BISP is apolitical programme and serving the people of Pakistan indiscriminately. Some people are habitual of raising empty slogans regarding a welfare state whereas we have laid the practical foundations of it three years back, she added. She said that various international institutions as well as the public and private sectors of the various countries are cooperating with BISP to achieve its objectives. However, she said, our corporate sector should also think of its role in this regard.

Chairperson BISP said that the Prime Minister had directed her quite earlier to initiate health insurance scheme for the beneficiary families as he was aware of the health related problems of these families. She said that under the life insurance which is another component of the Waseela-e-Sahat scheme of BISP, Rs. One lac is being provided to the family in the case of the death of its bread winner.

Madame Farzana Raja said that the number of individuals attached with BISP is more than 45 millions. She said that those people who level allegation that all the beneficiaries are Jeyalas (PPP Loyalists), then they must leave the politics considering the existence of such a huge number of jeyalas in the country. She informed the audience on the occasion that on the first

day of the launch of health insurance scheme, two women have successfully operated under the scheme in District Faisalabad where the pilot phase of the scheme has been initiated. She expressed her hope that the media and civil society would continue supporting BISP for its endeavor of making Pakistan a welfare state.

The Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani distributed Benazir Sehat Cards of Health Insurance Scheme among the number of women head of the beneficiary families during the ceremony.