

**August 17, 2011**

**BISP set to launch Education and Health Initiatives for its beneficiary families;**

**Mian Nawaz Sharif should respect the mandate of the people of Pakistan; Madam Farzana Raja**

Islamabad ( ): Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Madam Farzana Raja has said that BISP has ideally served 6 million beneficiary families throughout Pakistan and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani's directive for further expansion of its operations highlights the trust of the people of Pakistan on BISP. She expressed these views in a PTV's programme "Top Story".

Madam Farzana Raja said that she has emphasized on the transparent nature of BISP operations since its inception and therefore the world community and donors' agencies have shown immense confidence in the performance of the programme. She said that this programme is one of the largest in the social sector programmes of the world due to its magnitude and introduction of unique components.

Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP also informed about Conditional Cash Transfer for Education Programme by virtue of which more than 1 million children of beneficiaries will be sent to schools. This programme will educate coming generations of the poor families and help developing a bright Pakistan.

Madam Farzana Raja said that Life Insurance of Rs 1 Lakh has been launched and 3 million beneficiary families have already become entitled for this scheme. She added that BISP is also set to launch Health Insurance facility for all the family members of beneficiary families.

Chairperson BISP said that on the directives of President Asif Ali Zardari, Benazir Smart Card is being launched all over the country as an alternate payment mechanism to Post Office, thus achieving the objective of providing the rights of the people at their doorsteps.

Responding to Nawaz Sharif's allegations of using flood affectees fund for BISP, Madam Farzana Raja said that an amount of Rs. 13 Billion have been distributed amongst the beneficiaries identified by PML-N so the allegations are merely hollow slogans.

On a question regarding Nawaz Sharif's demand for elections, Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP said that Mian Nawaz Sharif should respect the mandate of the people of Pakistan and wait for the elections to be held in 2013. She said that there is democratic government working in Pakistan and everyone should work together for strengthening the country and rid it of poverty. She also dispelled any differences between Government and judiciary saying that all institutions are working in synchronization for the progress of the country.