

AusAID seeks cooperation with BISP

AusAID terms BISP an important programme for poverty alleviation, assures cooperation

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is making headway in introducing various new initiatives for alleviation of poverty and making the poorest of the poor section of society financially independent, said Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP Farzana Raja.



Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Farzana Raja gestures during a meeting with a delegation of AusAID at the BISP Secretariat on Thursday

Talking to a delegation of AusAID visiting the BISP Secretariat on Thursday, Farzana Raja said through the Waseela-e-Haq scheme BISP is giving a loan of Rs.300,000 to deserving families selected through a computerized draw. This loan will allow the lucky families to start their own business and escape the trap of

poverty. She said various other initiatives were in the pipeline, which included health insurance for BISP beneficiaries and technical training for one member of the family. Through these initiatives BISP aims to bring financial independence, health and employment opportunities to the neglected section of the society which is reeling under the burden of inflation, healthcare bills and unemployment.

The AusAID delegation appreciated BISP's performance and said it has made great achievements in a very short time. The delegation said AusAID seeks to identify possible areas of cooperation with BISP and was already in touch with BISP's development partners, such as USAID and World Bank. AusAID is looking into ways and means to support BISP. The delegation informed Farzana Raja that AusAID will

soon send a social protection specialist to BISP to look into technical details of cooperation. The AusAID delegation included AusAID's Rural Development Adviser Mr. Ian Kershaw, AusAID Consultant Mr. David Swete Kelly, ACIAR Research Programme Manager Les Baxter and Shoaib Tayyab, Senior Programme Manager, Australian High Commission, Islamabad.