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Farzana Raja meets French ambassador

French ambassador says BISP has achieved remarkable success in very short time period

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is striving hard to eliminate poverty from the country by helping the needy families attain financial self-sufficiency, said Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP on Thursday.



Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Farzana Raja presents a plaque to the French Ambassador Daniel Jouanneau after a meeting at the Prime Minister's Secretariat on Thursday.

During a meeting with the French ambassador Daniel Jouanneau at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, Farzana Raja briefed him on various initiatives of BISP and the progress it has made. Farzana Raja said BISP is working to alleviate poverty from the country

and so far the programme has taken into its fold 2.7 million deserving families and this number will be increased to 5 million by the end of this year. She said these families are being provided Rs.1,000 per month as financial assistance.

Farzana Raja told Mr Jouanneau BISP was executing an exit strategy by providing deserving families selected through a computerized draw a loan of Rs.300,000 under the Waseela-e-Haq scheme. With this loan the recipient family would start its own businesses and eventually become financially independent. Once this happens they will automatically become ineligible for monthly stipend of Rs.1,000 from BISP.

Mr. Jouanneau expressed hope that by enterprise development through the Waseela-e-Haq scheme and vocational training, BISP will help reduce poverty and extremism from

Pakistan. He praised government's efforts to reduce poverty and to bring relief to the needy and deserving.

Farzana Raja said BISP also planned to introduce health insurance and technical training for one member of each registered family. She said BISP was introducing technology-based solutions for disbursement of cash aid. Benazir Cards have been introduced through which registered families can draw cash directly from their accounts without going through the hassle of going to the banks.

Farzana Raja stressed only a democratic government could tackle the threat of terrorism, "Democracy has returned to Pakistan and the PPP-led government is working hard to eradicate terrorism from the country and needs international community's support for this. France must support Pakistan in its efforts to stamp out terrorism."

BISP has achieved remarkable success in a very short time period and could work as a model for poverty eradication programmes. He greatly appreciated BISP's efforts and called it the most reliable programme for poverty eradication.