

February 1, 2010

BISP moving towards social protection system: Farzana Raja

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is moving from social safety to social protection system by providing interest-free loans, health insurance and technical training to the poorest of the poor families of the country, said Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP Farzana Raja on Monday.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Farzana Raja is addressing SDPI seminar on the topic of "Social Safety Net (BISP) Structural Development" as Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan sits beside her.

Addressing a seminar held at the Sustainable Development and Policy Institute on the topic of "Social Safety Net (BISP) Structural Development", Farzana Raja said BISP will soon introduce a comprehensive package covering health insurance and technical training for the families identified under the Poverty Survey which is

being conducted nation-wide. She said BISP is a huge programme designed to provide financial relief to millions of families in the country. She said BISP is currently giving financial assistance to 2.7 million families and aims to increase this number to 5 million by the end of this year.

Farzana Raja said the present democratic government is working tirelessly in accordance with the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto to eliminate poverty from the country and was determined to realize the

dream of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to provide Roti, Kapra and Makaan to every citizen.

Farzana Raja said a Rs.300,000 loan was being given to deserving families through a computerized balloting process under the Waseela-e-Haq scheme. She said utilization of this loan was strictly monitored and BISP will guide the recipient family on how to make good use of this loan by starting a profitable business.

Farzana Raja briefed the gathering on how BISP was bringing technological change in the disbursement of financial aid by introducing Benazir Smart Cards, through which the aid recipient could easily withdraw cash. She said, "BISP will start issuing Benazir Smart Cards to those families which are identified in the Poverty Survey in April this year."

Acknowledging there could be instances of corruption in the delivery of cash to the deserving families, Farzana Raja said despite this the Post Office delivery rate is 95 percent. She said strict disciplinary action was taken against those officials of the Post Office who were found involved in corruption and 25 senior officials have been suspended in this regard.