

BISP's nationwide poverty survey appreciated by UK Women Parliamentarians

BISP's focus on Empowering Women, resulting in behavioral and attitudinal change of the Society: Farzana Raja

Islamabad 19th February 2013: "BISP's multidimensional approach towards tackling the issue of poverty in Pakistan is what is needed in the times ahead" said Farzana Raja, Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP. She shared these views with a visiting delegation of Women Parliamentarians from United Kingdom, headed by Lord Speaker Baroness D'Souza.



Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Madam Farzana Raja briefing the delegation of Women Parliamentarians of United Kingdom about BISP.

She said that BISP's contribution towards women empowerment is resulting in a behavior and attitudinal change in the society and that only BISP's continuity promises stagnancy in this regard.

She further added that BISP's achievements since its inception are nothing less than a miracle. BISP's target is to bring into its fold a total of 7.2 million poorest of the poor families which have been identified through the nationwide poverty survey. So far more than 4.2 million families are receiving the monthly cash grant of Rs. 1000. Apart from the Cash grant - *Mahana Maali*

Muawanat – initiative, BISP's other initiatives include Vocational and Technical training - *Waseela-e-Rozgar*, Interest-Free Returnable Financial Assistance - *Waseela-e-Haq*, Health and Life Insurance - *Waseela-e-Sehet* - Primary Education (Conditional Cash Transfer) - *Waseela-e-Taleem* and Emergency Relief - *Hangami Maali Imdad*.



She said that through BISP's efforts Pakistan's financial inclusion rating in the global economy has increased. This is due to the fact that BISP has managed to open bank accounts of its beneficiaries in large numbers and all of them are not related to the formal banking system.

She said that BISP through its partner NADRA included 2.3 million women in Pakistan in the National Registry Data Base by providing them with CNIC's. This act has given identity to these women and they are now part of the mainstream.

She also said that many countries in the world are now moving towards providing targeted subsidies and that Pakistan's progress in this area through BISP has been accredited by many global financial institution and foreign countries. BISP is now working on developing partnerships with the private sector and has already developed a comprehensive strategy in this regard.

Delegates appreciated BISP's nationwide poverty survey and termed it as a useful resource for policy planning to tackle issues of poverty in the country. The delegates also praised the concentrated efforts of the Government of Pakistan to help the marginalized segments of the country.

Ms. Shehnaz Wazir Ali - Prime Minister's special representative on social sector, Senator Ms. Rubina Rauf Khalid, Muhammad Sher Khan – Secretary BISP and other women MNA's also attended the meeting.