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BISP present government's greatest achievement: Salmaan Taseer

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is present government's greatest achievement for alleviation of poverty from the country, said Governor Punjab Salmaan Taseer during his visit to BISP Secretariat on Tuesday.



Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Farzana Raja gestures during a meeting with Governor Punjab Salmaan Taseer. Governor Taseer visited BISP Secretariat on Tuesday

In a meeting with Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP Ms. Farzana Raja, Governor Taseer lauded BISP's efforts for poverty alleviation. He said BISP is a revolutionary programme which has made it easier for deserving families to receive financial assistance by delivering it on their

doorstep. Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP briefed Governor Taseer on Poverty Survey being conducted by BISP. She said the Poverty Survey will first be launched in Baluchistan and nation-wide in May. She said BISP was providing financial assistance to the earthquake victims of. She also gave an overview of various new initiatives of BISP including Waseela-e-Haq, Health Insurance and Vocational Training. Governor Taseer appreciated inclusion of civil society and community notables in the Poverty Survey in order to make it effective, which was being conducted for the very first time in the history of the country.

Explaining BISP's exit strategy, Farzana Raja said under the Waseela-e-Haq scheme registered families will be encouraged to start their own business. Once the family has started its own business it will stop receiving financial assistance from BISP. She said under the Vocational Training initiative one member of the family will be given technical

training thus enabling one person to start earning and contributing to the family's income.

Ms Farzana Raja said BISP was working for the benefit and wellbeing of the poorest of the poor and makes no distinction on political lines in selection of deserving families. 2.4 million families are currently benefiting from BISP and this number will be increased to 5 to 7 million in the next two years. She termed BISP the most effective programme for poverty alleviation in the history of the country and thanked President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani for their personal interest in and supervision of BISP.