

May 13, 2010

BISP making women self-sufficient: Farzana Raja

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is striving to make women self-sufficient by providing them financial assistance, said Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP Ms. Farzana Raja on Thursday.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Farzana Raja with the participants of the seminar on Women Empowerment at the National Centre for Rural Development.

Ms. Farzana Raja was addressing a seminar on Women Empowerment at the National Centre for Rural Development. Speaking at the seminar Ms. Farzana Raja said BISP has two objectives: one is to reduce poverty and the other to empower

women by making them financially independent. She said we are trying to achieve these objectives through monthly cash grants and through the Waseela-e-Haq initiative. Ms. Farzana Raja said it is noteworthy that only women are the beneficiaries of BISP as only they can register with the programme and get financial assistance.

Ms. Farzana Raja said BISP was providing Rs.1,000 per month cash assistance to its beneficiaries and under the Waseela-e-Haq initiative over 700 deserving families are being given Rs.300,000 each month through a computerized draw. This amount will enable them to start their own business and attain self-sufficiency. She said that the women are given a sense of ownership and self-respect as they are the one who receive this financial assistance. She said by making them the owner of their business, women are being made masters of their destiny.

Ms. Farzana Raja said since registration with BISP requires production of CNIC, therefore, rate of women registering with NADRA has also gone up. Explaining the new method of identifying beneficiaries, Ms. Farzana Raja said a nationwide Poverty Survey has been launched under which survey teams will go home to home to collect data, which will then be used to identify deserving families. Ms. Farzana Raja also said that Benazir Smart Card has also been launched in four districts as alternate payment mechanism through which the card-holder could easily draw cash from BISP designated franchises in their area. She said the Benazir Smart Card will ensure speedy and transparent disbursement of cash assistance to deserving families.