

May 19, 2010

## **BISP taking historic steps to eliminate poverty**

**ISLAMABAD:** The poor people of Pakistan can register their complaints regarding Benazir Income Support programme (BISP) at the toll free number 0800-26477.

BISP is establishing its offices at the tehsil level for the facilitation of families registered with the programme, said Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP Ms. Farzana Raja during a press conference on Wednesday. Ms. Farzana Raja said a Poverty Survey is being conducted for the first time in the history of the country. Initially, the survey has been conducted in 16 districts and 0.7 million deserving families have been registered. These families will be issued Benazir Smart Card and one member of the family will be given technical training to enable the family to become self-sufficient.



RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Farzana Raja prays after unveiling of a plaque to inaugurate a complaint centre, on Wednesday.

A complaint cell has been launched to solve the problems being faced by the public. A toll free number 0800-26477 has been installed at the complaint cell. Through this toll free number the deserving families will be able to register their complaints which will be rectified in shortest possible time. The IDPs of Swat are already availing this facility through which their complaints are

being registered. BISP is also establishing its offices at tehsil level for the convenience of the deserving families so that they do not have to travel to far off offices. Ms. Farzana Raja said that a Poverty Survey is being conducted for the first time in the history of the country. The Poverty Survey has been started in Baluchistan under the Haqooq-e-Baluchistan package and four districts have been surveyed, data of which has been sent to NADRA for verification. The survey will be completed in Baluchistan before June.

Benazir Smart Card has been launched by President Asif Ali Zardari in Bahawalpur. The technology based Benazir Smart Card will further ensure transparency in BISP. Benazir Smart Card has initially been distributed in four districts which are Sangarh, Mirpur Khas, Mianwali and Multan. The Benazir Smart Card will be distributed nationwide after the Poverty Survey is completed. Small business owners in villages will be given franchises so that deserving families can draw cash from there. In addition to the Benazir Smart Card BISP will also launch mobile banking.

BISP is playing a crucial role in making Pakistan a welfare state. BISP registered families will also be given health facilities in addition to technical training. 2.24 million families are benefitting from the programme. This number goes up to 2.7 million if the earthquake affected families are also added to it.

Rs. 40 billion will be disbursed among deserving families by the end of current fiscal year.

Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP Ms. Farzana Raja said the civil society and public representatives are cooperating in the Poverty Survey to make it a success and ensure that maximum number of deserving families are identified.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Ms. Farzana Raja addresses a press conference at the BISP Secretariat on Wednesday.