

Date: 30-10-09

International community and institutions are praising the Benazir Income Support Programme for its transparency and efficiency. Farzana Raja

International community and institutions are praising the Benazir Income Support Programme for its transparency and efficiency, said the Federal Minister/Chairperson of the programme Mohtarma Farzana Raja on Friday.

Speaking at a press conference she said over 2.2 million families were being provided with financial assistance under that programme in a very transparent manner. She revealed that by the end of the current year the number of families, being supported under the programme will reach 5 million.



She said under Benazir Income Support Programme component called "Wasila-e-Haq", around 747 families are provided Rs 300,000 each through computerized draw. The families taking benefits under the programme are supposed to return the money in 15 years without paying any additional markup. She

said the second balloting of Wasila-e-Haq programme was conducted by President Asif Ali Zardari and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The names of the lucky families, selected through the balloting, are available on the programme's website. She said the money under Wasila-e-Haq programme would be given to the women of the families, while their husbands or sons or brothers would launch some business venture.

Ms. Farzana Raja told that the conditions of passport and foreign accounts have also been removed whereas the poor having addresses on their CNIC other than where they are residing are also being registered under the BISP. She also told that Smart Cards are being issued for transparent and fast distribution and payment money. Poverty Survey

been completed 15 districts and soon it will be expanded all over the country under which the survey in 21 districts will commence in December. Payments shall be made through smart cards in those districts where the survey will be completed. 318,000 affectees of Swat and Malakand have been registered and UBL Cards are being issued to them for monthly payment. The UBL has planned to set up 300 stations for distribution of cards so that the beneficiaries do not face any hindrance in collection of cards and money.

To a question she said Rs 28 million have already been distributed among the internally displaced people from FATA and Bajaur Agency. She said over 318,000 IDPs from Swat and Malakand have been registered. Over 3729 earthquake-hit families have also been included in the programme.

She told journalists that the World Bank has given \$ 200 million as budgetary support and \$ 60 million as technical support in Benazir Income Support Programme. She said Benazir Income Support Programme is a great vision to fulfill all the dreams of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto to make Pakistan a welfare state.