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**BISP providing safety net to 25% bottom population of  
Pakistan: Madame Farzana Raja**

**The programme is serving the marginalized and underprivileged  
strata of society beside empowering women**

**ISLAMABAD:** Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Madame Farzana Raja has said that the purpose of development is to reduce poverty, inequality and unemployment so that the basic needs of underprivileged of society could be provided. The growth without addressing the root causes of inequality can result in larger gulf between the haves and have not. She said this while addressing at the annual Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan Memorial Lecture 2012 here on Wednesday.



Islamabad: Federal Minister and Chairperson BISP, Madame Farzana Raja receiving Akhter Memorial Award for recognition of her services from Mrs. Akhter Hameed Khan and Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui during Akhter Hameed Khan Annual Memorial Lecture (Dated: Oct 10, 2012)

Madame Farzana Raja said that BISP is providing a safety net to the bottom 25% population of Pakistan as cushion against the rising prices of food and fuel. She said that this initiative is aiming to enable poor families to maintain essential consumption pattern.

Chairperson BISP said that it is a matter of immense pride for her BISP is being implemented in accordance to vision of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. She added further that it is the most comprehensive social protection program to take care of the marginalized and underprivileged strata of society, especially with regard to women empowerment.

Madame Farzana said that BISP, through its innovative approach, has contributed to women's social and economic empowerment by making women the primary focus of BISP's monthly cash transfer and other benefits. She also presented the detail of BISP's exit strategy it is being achieved through interest free micro financing, skill development as well as health and life insurance facilities ton its beneficiary families.

Chairperson BISP informed the audience that BISP has gained international recognition by virtue of adopting state of the art technology based mechanisms to ensure transparency and efficiency at every level.

Madame Farzana on the occasion lauds the roles of Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan and the roles of Akhtar Hameed Khan Resource Centre and said that it is playing vital role as knowledge bank on rural sector development in Pakistan. She said that poverty alleviation through research and dialogue is instrumental for the rural development in Pakistan.

Dr. Anwaar Ahmad, Chairman National Language Authority, Mrs. Akhtar Hameed Khan and Zeenat Salamat, President Council of Social Sciences, also spoke on the occasion and highlighted various aspect of the contribution made by Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan.

During the proceedings, a resolution was also passed by the participants, which condemned the attack on Malala Yousafzai. Madame Farzana Raja while strongly condemning this brutal act said that Islam encourages males and females both to get education. She said that we need to change this retrogressive mindset and thus BISP is combating with it by its efforts to reduce poverty as it is a root cause of extremism and hence, terrorism.