



## **1. BISP TRYING TO EMPOWER BENEFICIARIES: MARVI**



Karachi: Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards poverty alleviation and financial inclusiveness. BISP is trying its level best to empower its beneficiaries. BISP intends to harness entrepreneurial potential of its beneficiaries through E-commerce. BISP E-Commerce initiative would provide market access to beneficiaries making them self-reliant. This was stated by Minister of State and Chairperson MNA Marvi Memon while addressing at the inauguration of Bohra Women Talent Expo and Food Festival at Al Jamea Safiya playground.

Chairperson BISP reiterated that through BISP E-Commerce, the products of beneficiaries are available online giving international recognition to the traditional products of the country. She further added that market access to the handicrafts of marginalized segments would contribute in their welfare. Chairperson BISP highlighted that it is a positive sign that one lakh beneficiaries have already started their

own businesses benefiting from PM Interest Free Loan Scheme.

BISP has recently signed an MOU with AHAN to refine the skills of the beneficiaries so that they may find a decent living for themselves and their families. Chairperson BISP sought cooperation of Bohra Community to impart vocational skills to the beneficiaries. Chairperson BISP visited the stalls and lauded the sincere efforts of the artisans and management. Chairperson BISP was warmly welcomed by Sheikh Ishaq, Sheikh Mustafa, BISP officials and beneficiaries.

## **2. NATION IS PROUD OF THE VIBRANT, VALIANT AND EVER VIGILANT PMSA: MARVI**



Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) has an important role to play in enforcing national jurisdiction & sovereignty and protection of Pakistan's economic interests in Exclusive Economic Zone. This was stated by Minister of State & Chairperson BISP MNA Marvi Memon during a visit to Pakistan Maritime Security Agency onsite project at Ketibandar along with Ministry of Defence monitoring and evaluation team comprising of



Joint Secretary Mr Shakoor Nizamani and Assistant Chief M&E Mr Sajjad and other senior officials.

DG MSA Rear Admiral Jamil Akhtar and Commander Khalid Munir briefed about the construction project of administration block, accommodation block and allied facilities at PMSA base Ketibandar. Chairperson BISP said that in presence of PMSA national and international laws are ensured, economic resources are protected, fishing vessels and crew are safe at sea.

Chairperson lauded the social support activities undertaken by PMSA that include regular free medical camps, flood relief operations in addition to its search and rescue efforts and anti-smuggling duties. She further added that government is fully committed to enhance the operational capabilities of PMSA through equipment modernization and organizational betterment. DG MSA briefed that PMSA was established in 1987 for enforcement of national and international laws, policies and conventions at sea.

*(Business Recorder, Frontier Post, Patriot, Express, Dunya, Naibaat, Khabrain and Jinnah carried the story and picture)*

### **3. SOCIAL SAFETY NETS**

Plug the holes in the system

*Editorial published in Daily Star, April 12, 2016*

Even though Bangladesh is on its way to become a middle income country (MIC), nearly a third of its population lives below the

poverty line, making social safety net programmes an integral part of its economic development. Yet, the existing funds allocated to about one hundred plus programmes have turned out to be inadequate to cushion the poor against poverty. Bangladesh's allocation in its social safety nets is 2.2 percent of the GDP, which is paltry compared to other MICs. The problem was highlighted last Sunday at a discussion organised by a leading Bangladeshi daily on social protection strategy and budget.

To make matters even more grievous, half the state support does not even reach its intended recipient because of pervasive corruption, selection of ineligible beneficiaries and other misuse of funds. On top of it all, over a quarter of the allocation is spent to provide pension for government employees! Also, the schemes are not well coordinated and suffer from lack of transparency and accountability.

We believe that the government should prepare a detailed database of the number of people living below the poverty line, which will help the stakeholders involved in understanding the needs of different target groups and strategies result-orientated plans. Improved management of the schemes, along with an efficient use of resources and plugging the loopholes in the distribution process is crucial in making the social safety nets more effective. It is also important to strengthen the monitoring and supervision system relating to the implementation process to make the schemes more accountable.

*<http://www.thedailystar.net/editorial/social-safety-nets-1207663>*