

# NEWS TODAY

SAT-MON, FEBRUARY 27-29, 2016

## **1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER BISP ENHANCED: MARVI**

*Published in The Nation, Feb 29, 2016*

*RAHIM YAR KHAN (APP): State Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Marvi Memon said Saturday the government enhanced budget of BISP from Rs 40 billion to Rs 105 billion with an aim to provide relief to the poor more effectively. She stated this in a ceremony related to inclusion of new deservings in BISP here at Shiekh Caliph Auditorium. The credit of enhancing budget of BISP goes to Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Finance Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, she said and added that financial assistance amount to every beneficiary had also been increased from Rs 4500 to Rs 4700 which would be provided to the poor after three-month.*

*A comprehensive system had been evolved to ensure transparency and end the chances of corruption during the distribution of amounts to beneficiaries, Marvi said and added the amounts would be distributed through ID cards and Biometric verification by end the on-going year.*

*Marvi maintained the PML-N government was paying equal focus on progress and prosperity of every region in the country. The BISP is not limited to any province but it is a programme for the poor of all provinces.*

*Every possible step was being taken for welfare of people and facilities are provided at people's doors step, SHE said.*

*The BISP Chairperson disclosed that a new survey would be launched in 2016, and only poor people would be the part of the financial assistance after the new survey.*

*Marvi Memon also lauded the Punjab government's programme of "Qarz-e-Hasna" and stated that it would surely help minimizing poverty. She also urged the women to improve their skills and arts as it was vital to alleviate poverty.*

## **2. AN ORGANIZED SYSTEM**

*Published in Express Tribune, Feb 29, 2016*



*(Jang and Jinnah also carried the story and picture)*

## **3. GOVERNMENT RE-LAUNCHES BISP SCHEMES TO STRENGTHEN PM'S PROGRAMMES**

*Published in Business Recorder, Feb 28, 2016*

*The government's decision to exclude three initiatives of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) may be an attempt to strengthen the Prime Minister's programmes. The PML-N government has stopped BISP programmes like Waseela-e-Sehet, Waseela-e-Haq and Waseela-e-Rozgar and re-launched them under new names. The PPP government initiated a pilot project of Waseela-e-Sehet in 2012 from Faisalabad and was planning to replicate it in other parts of the country as well.*



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SAT-MON, FEBRUARY 27-29, 2016

*Under the pilot project, only BISP beneficiaries were entitled to health insurance programme. A beneficiary family could avail up to Rs 25,000 health facilities per year. The official data available with Business Recorder revealed that a total of 7,882 patients visited hospitals or other medical facilities during the programme while 2,024 patients were admitted and enjoyed the health insurance facility.*

*When the PML-N management assumed charge of the BISP, it discontinued the health insurance programme and accused the previous management of corruption and mismanagement in the project. The PML-N government has, however, re-launched the same programme with a new name, "PM's National Health Programme." The PML-N management stopped the Waseela-e-Haq programme and merged it in the Prime Minister Youth Loan Scheme. The Waseela-e-Haq was launched to provide loan amounting up to Rs 300,000 to randomly selected beneficiary families receiving cash transfers under BISP to be validated through the programme eligibility criteria.*

*BISP official told this correspondent that around 25,000 BISP beneficiaries have received loans under the Prime Minister Youth Loan Scheme to run their own businesses and projects, and consequently have graduated out of BISP. Accusing the PPP management of corruption and mismanagement in the Waseela-e-Rozgar scheme, the PML-N management has suspended this programme too. Under the scheme, the BISP had initiated a Vocational Training Programme aimed at providing its beneficiaries with necessary skills to exercise a profession enabling him/her to earn a livelihood and subsequent integration in the labour market. The PML-N government has, however, re-launched the same programme with a new name, "Prime Minister Youth Skills Development Programme."*

## **4. BISP TO INTRODUCE BIOMETRIC FOR ITS BENEFICIARIES: MARVI MEMON**

*RAHIM YAR KHAN, Feb 27 (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), and Minister of State Marvi Memon Saturday said that BISP was going to launch biometric system of identification for their beneficiaries this year. While addressing a launching ceremony of "Beneficiaries Outreach and Communication Strategy" at Rahim Yar Khan, BISP Chairperson said that this step was taken in order to increase the efficiency of BISP for provision of financial assistance to the beneficiaries.*

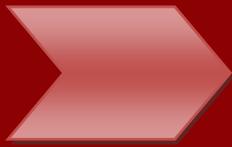
## **5. GOVT COMMITTED TO ALLEVIATING POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT: MARVI**

*BISP Chairperson says revolutionary changes are being introduced in the BISP, which will help improve living standard of the poor.*

*Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Marvi Memon says the government is committed to alleviate poverty and unemployment.*

*Talking to people and media in Rajanpur, she said revolutionary changes are being introduced in the BISP, which will help improve living standard of the poor.*

*The BISP budget has been increased from 40 billion rupees to 105 billion rupees while a new survey will soon be launched to provide relief to the poor more effectively.*



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SAT-MON, FEBRUARY 27-29, 2016



*(Pakistan Observer, Frontier Post, Patriot, Express, Jahan Pakistan, Naibaat, Pakistan and Jinnah published the story and picture – Feb 28, 2016)*

## **6. BISP BOARD MEETING HELD**

*Published in The News, Feb 28, 2016*

*Islamabad: Phase one of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)'s National Socio Economic Registry (NSEER) in 16 districts throughout the country, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) will be initiated from June 2016.*

*The timeline was shared at 25th meeting of BISP Board held. Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, Marvi Memon chaired the meeting which was participated by board members including Dr Zeba A. Sathar, Yawar Irfan Khan, Dr Sania Nishtar, Dr Ali Cheema, representatives of Finance Division, EAD, Foreign Office and Secretary BISP, Muhammad Saleem Ahmed Ranjha. In her welcome note, Chairperson BISP shared recent initiatives undertaken by the organisation and briefly discussed the agenda items for the meeting.*