

# News Today

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

## **1. CATERING TO THE NEEDY**

Maiza Hameed

*Published in The Nation, March 29, 2016*

Nothing gives more satisfaction than reaching out to those less fortunate who are in dire need of financial assistance to begin with. The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), which is a household name now, has proven to be the most active and regular programme in meeting its goals, which are to empower and assist low-income households, so they could fulfil basic human needs and uplift their status in the society.

Being a member of the National Assembly comes with its benefits, which enables me to join hands with my colleagues and raise voice for what should be done and what should be avoided. Problems of uncontrolled population growth and lack of education leads to increasing unemployment, which further leads to alleviation in poverty. The government realises the importance of eradicating this menace from the society and is making rigorous effects to cater to the downtrodden segments of our communities.

Recently, a survey was conducted for the BISP to make its working process more transparent and efficient. This was done in a reaction owing to some complaints about the programme. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed told the House that he was responding to a resolution of Surriya Asghar about conducting new survey

for BISP and extend its scope to make the programme more beneficial for the poor and needy.

Efforts are now being made to identify the deserving populace throughout the country and make the programme more transparent and beneficial. All irregularities, if there are any, in the BISP were, and if may occur in the future, be addressed with the utmost of attention, at all levels.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) envisions making this programme complaint-free and the leadership of the party wants to benefit all the deserving persons without any discrimination. After taking concrete steps in eliminating the middle-man culture, the government is moving in the right direction towards setting this programme an example for other countries to follow.

BISP is also introducing biometric system for distribution of its monetary support so as to eliminate the ATM mafia besides focusing on promoting rural handicrafts and woman entrepreneurs by taking steps for selling their products online as well as bringing them to big markets, which would bring a revolutionary change in the rural life.

Moreover, BISP will support all those initiatives and products meant to alleviate poverty and welfare of womenfolk, as the government wants to give our women dignity, empowerment and meaning to their lives. The programme had recently enhanced quarterly financial support to Rs 4,700 from Rs 4,500 per family while reservations of all stakeholders are being removed to ensure better

