



## **1. BISP RE-SURVEY: NO DESERVING WOMAN IN BALOCHISTAN WOULD BE LEFT OUT: MARVI**

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DERA MURAD JAMALI: Benazir Income Support Programme chairperson Marvi Memon talking to beneficiaries and poor women during a visit to the divisional office of the BISP on Wednesday.

"The incumbent government would ensure that no deserving woman in Balochistan remains deprived of financial assistance of BISP. BISP will provide a real list of poor to the government for effective service delivery. The performance of governments whether it be federal, provincial or local depends on reliable data for better targeted programmes to eradicate poverty."

This was stated by Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon while addressing a gathering of local government, notables and BISP beneficiaries in Divisional Office of BISP at Dera Murad Jamali. BISP beneficiaries and poor women who were left out in the previous survey from the village of

Chatthar and other rural areas of Naseerabad attended the beneficiary outreach campaign.



In order to interact with the women of those areas which were neglected in the previous survey, Marvi along with Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan and Minister for Mines and Minerals Development, Muhammad Khan Lehri and Taj Baloch, also visited the villages of Muhammad Yaqub Sapparra and Wahid Bakhsh Bangulzai of tehsil Tamboo. Chairperson BISP's visits are part of beneficiary outreach campaign just ahead of the launch of pilot phase of National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) update.



While explaining the salient features of the re-survey to the community, she stated that the discrepancies of previous survey would be removed in the new survey. Keeping in view



the long distances and nomad population, this time BISP would make sure that no deserving women are left out in the re-survey as desired by the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar.

(Dawn, Express Tribune, Pakistan Observer, Frontier Post, Express, Dunya, Naibaat, Jahan Pakistan, Khabrain, Jinnah and Ausaf also carried the story and picture)

## 2. BISP NEWS

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(Khabrain and Ausaf also carried the story and picture)

## 3. SENATE BODY GIVES USC SIX MONTHS TO IMPROVE ITS PERFORMANCE

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ISLAMABAD: A legislative body of the Senate on Wednesday gave six months time to Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan (USC) to improve their performance and stop corruption, otherwise they would recommend the government to windup as it has no purpose to continue.

Functional Committee on Less Developed Areas Chairman Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar issued this warning to the USC managing director. He said the department was involved in massive corruption and mismanagement, having no subsidy for the poor. As the department has already confronted annual loss, then what was the purpose of existence of such a big organisation? Kakar questioned.

Other members of the committee were of the view that goods available at USC were sub-standard despite the fact that these were purchased in bulk, which were available at lower rates.

The chairman said most USC networks could not exist in less developed areas as it gives no benefits to the poor people. However, Ministry of Industry and Production Secretary Hizar Hayat told the committee that time for improvement should be given to the corporation, as it is planning several changes to make it profitable. Additional Secretary



Shafqat Ranjah told the committee that main idea behind the establishment of USC was price stabilisation in the market. USC can only run smoothly if inefficiency was removed and corruption was stopped, he added. He recommended that USC could purchase goods in large quantity at lower rates and sell below the market prices.

Earlier, the USC MD informed that before 2005, there was no subsidy on USC outlets and the corruption element was at minimum, however, when subsidy was introduced in 2005, corruption and mismanagement was also introduced. *“If the government wants to give subsidy, it should be targeted like the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and not through USC outlets.”*

Giving details about USC, the MD apprised the committee that there were embezzlement cases in Killa Saifullah, Loralai, Pashin and other parts of the country. He said that during the internal audit of USC Quetta region, embezzlement of fund through illegal credit by the accounts staff of USC Quetta to the concerned store incharge came to light.

However, the MD claimed that the current management had decided to wipe out corruption from the corporation and also improve the overall efficiency by introducing computerisation. Within a short period of time, he claimed, the department would be made efficient despite the fact that last year, the USC incurred a loss of Rs 1.5 billion. He also informed the committee that the government announced Rs 1.5 billion subsidies during the month of Ramadan and the USC was ready to oblige.

Currently, the MD said, USC has Rs 15 billion assets and Rs 9 billion inventory which means that the corporation could not demand more money from the government for the losses, as it would be covered with the increase in sale.

The committee was given detailed briefing about different attached department of USC like SMEDA, PASDEC, Eik Hunar Eik Nagar (AHAN), National Productivity Organisation (NPO), National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML), Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Development Company (PGJDC), National Fertilizer Corporation (NFC), Furniture Pakistan Company (FPC) and many more. The committee was told that these organisations played an important role in development of less developed areas and they have already initiated different training programmes for women and youth.