



1. BISP TO CONDUCT NEW POVERTY SURVEY IN 15 DISTRICTS SOON

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Islamabad: Following the best international practices, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is ready to initiate the pilot phase of its new poverty survey in 15 districts and a tribal agency by the middle of this year.

In order to create awareness among masses regarding resurvey, Minister of State and Chairperson BISP MNA Marvi Memon is visiting different parts of the country where she is holding meetings with elders, elected members of local bodies, notables and beneficiaries.

BISP chairperson is undertaking a vigorous beneficiary outreach campaign so that the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) is updated in the best possible manner. In this connection, she has already visited Sukkar, Jacobabad, Naseerabad, Dera Murad Jamali, Qila Saifullah and Turbat in the past few days. These areas are included in the pilot phase of the new poverty survey of BISP.

While addressing the gatherings, BISP chairperson said that BISP aims to conduct the most reliable and accurate survey utilising the advanced mechanisms and procedures. She said that the incumbent government endeavours to cater the needs of the poor. "Through new poverty survey, it would be ensured that no deserving woman remains deprived of the financial assistance of BISP in

contrast to the previous survey of 2010 conducted under last government."



BISP chairperson further added that BISP is an apolitical organization and the government would not tolerate any political interference in the identification of poor. Being the directory of real poor, updated NSER would be an asset for all. Updated NSER would contribute towards effective policy making and better targeted programs as the present government believes in serving people instead of wasting time in blame games.

The minister also apprised the audience of the sophisticated and reliable payment mechanism for BISP beneficiaries which will save them from fraudulent elements and will also provide an easy access to their payments. She also urged the poor women to benefit from the Prime Minister's Loan Scheme to initiate the entrepreneurial activities and become financially independent.



(Dawn, Express Tribune, Daily Times, Frontier Post, Patriot, Dunya, Jinnah, Naibaat and Pakistan carried the story and picture)

2. WORLD BANK TEAM LAUDS WASEELA-E-TALEEM SCHEME

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KARACHI - World Bank (WB) appreciates the efforts of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for running a successful Waseela-e-Taleem and cash transfer schemes for the poor, said Ms Anna Fruttero, who headed the WB delegation during the visit to BISP Sindh regional office in Karachi.

Anna was accompanied by Jorge Luis, Laurent Bossavie and other WB representatives, along with Aurat Foundation representatives.

Director General BISP, Sindh Azhar Ali briefed the delegation about the functions and operations of the BISP.

He specifically told the delegation about Waseela-e-Taleem challenges like enrolling the beneficiaries and reaching out to female BISP beneficiaries in tehsils.

BISP DG said that BISP was the flagship social safety net programme of the country, while Waseela-e-Taleem Programme is a landmark initiative of BISP for spreading education and ensuring poverty alleviation on durable basis.

Azhar further said that Waseela-e-Taleem Programme had been envisioned to promote education among children belonging to

downtrodden segments of the society and also to help them break out of poverty.

The guests were shown the steps of the BISP Debit Card distribution system.

The role of BISP partner organizations like banks and National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) was also explained to the delegation.

The WB representatives, along with BISP officials, visited Channar Memon Goth School in Thatta and BDC Replacement Center at Gulistan-e-Jauhar in Karachi.

They took keen interest in the functions of the BISP, and personally interviewed a large number of BISP beneficiaries in order to understand their socio-economic background and challenges being faced by them.

(Pakistan Observer also carried the story)