



1. RE-SURVEY FOR BISP IN MOHMAND AGENCY SOON

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GHALLANAI: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Marvi Memon on Wednesday said that Mohmand Agency was among the areas where the government was launching re-survey for the provision of financial assistance to deserving families.

Speaking at a rally in Wazir Killay in Ghallanai, she disclosed that the government was launching another survey for the BISP in 15 districts and Mohmand Agency. "Poor families across Mohmand Agency would be registered soon after Ramazan for receiving financial assistance," she said.

Marvi Memon said that data about all families would be collected and then deserving families would be selected for the BISP programme. The survey would be conducted on non-

political basis by political administration, security forces and elders.

The BISP chief said an active monitoring system had been devised for ensuring transparency in the survey. "The monitoring body would include representatives from security forces, administration, elders and civil society," she added.

Our correspondent adds from Charsadda: Marvi Memon said that the Pakistan People's Party government had distributed the BISP form through the party workers. Speaking at a function here, she said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government was putting an end to the political interference in the programme to provide financial support to the deserving families.

She said that the PML-N government had devised a mechanism in which the forms would be distributed by the BISP staff. She said that the masses would be provided toll free numbers to report anomalies in the survey.





Marvi Memon said that a new system for the BISP had been developed and 16 districts had been selected through a computerised draw which included three districts from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These districts included Charsadda, Karak and Haripur, she added. She said that payment would be made to beneficiaries through fingerprints which would end corruption in the programme.

(Nation, Pakistan Observer, Frontier Post, Express, Nawaiwaqt, Dunya, Naibaat, Khabrain, Jinnah, Pakistan and Ausaf carried the story and picture)

2. MALNUTRITION, WATER INTAKE SURVEY IN THE OFFING

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Islamabad - The government is going to launch a huge survey soon to measure malnutrition and intake of water throughout Pakistan.

Dr Baseer Khan Achakzai, Director Nutrition/National Programme Manager-Ministry of National Health Services, speaking at a conference yesterday said food insecurity remains the biggest factor to malnutrition but issues like water, sanitation and education play a big role in promoting malnutrition as well.

The last national nutrition survey was conducted in 2011. Dr Achakzai said the programme is also considering to tap the homes registered with Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to make it pro-nutrition. These families should get some money for nutrient dense food.

The national conference themed "Health and Nutrition: Shaping a Healthier Nation" was jointly organised by Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR), National Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services (NAPHIS) and Nestle Pakistan Ltd.

The speakers included people from Nestle, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), Micronutrient Initiative (MI) and European Union. Experts from all across the country, including Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan, participated in the conference. Technical Director of Food Fortification Programme, Dr Tausif Akhtar Janjua said almost 50 percent deaths among children are due to malnutrition and overall loss to the economy is 3 percent of GDP annually. That is more than the loss due to the energy crises.

And, nearly half of Pakistani mothers and children suffer from under-nutrition. The situation is worse than that in Sub-Saharan Africa, he remarked. "Children who are malnourished learn less at school and then earn less when they grow up. Adults who are malnourished as children earn up to 46 percent less than adequately nourished children," he said highlighting the affects of the malnutrition.

"Addressing micro-nutrient malnutrition through fortification is one of the best investments Pakistan can make in its future," he stressed. "We need to bring sectors like health, social protection, agri, development & poverty reduction, education and women empowerment together to address these challenges."



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Dr Farnaz Malik from National Institute of Health echoed Janjua saying, "We can reduce the risk of under-nutrition through micronutrient fortification."

The chief guest of the conference Rana Tanweer Hussain, Federal Minister of Science & Technology said the topic is relevant because the National Nutrition Survey indicates that stunting, wasting and micronutrient malnutrition are endemic in Pakistan. In addition, he said, the need of the hour is to look at health and nutrition with an integrated approach.

The speakers concluded that the government, civil society and the private sector need to join hands not only to create awareness on the role good nutrition can play in the rural and urban economic development of a country but also to offer solutions to nutritional challenges faced by Pakistan.