



BISP BENEFICIARIES TO GET MORE SUPPORT IN NEW BUDGET

Published in The News, May 20, 2016

BISP beneficiaries to get more support in new budget

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ISLAMABAD: Finance Ministry is all set to allocate Rs114 billion for Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in the coming budget 2016-17 whereby the quarterly instalment for around 5.3 million beneficiaries will be jacked up to Rs5,000 from existing amount of Rs4,700 with effect from July 1, 2016, The News has learnt.

Federal Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar had always assured the BISP that the financial constraints would never be used as an excuse for denying them full support but these resources would be utilised efficiently and transparently.

Top official sources in Ministry of Finance told The News on Thursday that the government indicated an increase of over 10 percent in allocation of BISP in the coming budget 2016-17 against allocated amount of Rs102 billion in outgoing financial year ending on June 30, 2016.

The disbursement of BISP instalment is also part of the IMF programme under which Washington based lending in-

stitution tracks quarterly release of stipend to selected families as part of indicative targets.

Although, the multilateral and bilateral creditors consider the BISP as marvelous achievement with their contribution but without exit strategy for selected families, the programme will continue attracting criticism from experts.

The BISP in its recently published achievement chart shows that out of 7.7 million eligible beneficiaries, unconditional cash transfer was being provided to 5.29 million beneficiaries. The payment on per quarter basis stood at Rs3000 in fiscal year 2011-2012, Rs3000 per quarter in FY 2012-13, Rs4,500 per quarter in 2013-14 and Rs47,00 per quarter in 2014-15. The overall allocated amount jacked up from Rs75 billion in 2013-14 to Rs102 billion in FY 2015-16.

Under Waseela-e-Taleem initiative, the BISP enrolled 1.37 million children into school in 32 districts of the country and Rs508 million were paid for attendance compliance. The BISP provided Rs250 per child per month basis.