

**Government of Pakistan
Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division
Press Release**

12th CSR Summit 2020- Dr. Sania Nishtar says special system to be launched in three months to ensure transparency in spending private sector donations for Ehsaas programme



Jan 22, 2020- Islamabad: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar has said that the federal government is going to launch an institutional arrangement in next three months allowing the corporate and private sectors to connect with Ehsaas Programme being the government's flagship welfare initiative with utmost transparency and efficiency.

The PM's Special Assistant stated this on Wednesday while addressing as the chief guest here at the inauguration of 12th Annual CSR Summit-2020 organized by National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH). Dr. Nishtar said that she had been advising the philanthropists associated with the country's corporate sector and willing to donate for the Ehsaas programme to wait for another three months to let this special purpose vehicle be launched allowing the government to receive these donations from the private sector and spend them with utmost integrity and honesty.

She said that a web portal would be launched under the proposed arrangement to let the private sector know well as in what manner each of the penny of the philanthropic donations would be spent for the welfare of the individuals and for the benefit of several components of the Ehsaas programme. A policy was also being formalized to offer incentives to the corporate sector of the country to offer incentives to the corporate sector on institutionalized basis to do philanthropy.

The SAPM said that in her capacity as being the in-charge of the government's programme for poverty reduction and social protection, she had been mandated with the task to come up with the required incentives for the corporate sector to contribute for welfare initiatives of the government like Ehsaas programme.

She continued that the present government had been doing its best to ensure that utmost transparency was being maintained in its functioning while everyone who was willing to contribute for social protection and welfare of the masses get a level-playing field.

Further, she said that Ehsaas programme of the present government comprised of 134 different initiatives for the welfare of different sections of the needy and disadvantaged sections of the society including orphans and women as she had been making efforts to forge partnerships with the private sector to further these initiatives.

Dr. Nishtar said that she was well aware of the importance of the private and corporate sectors as without them the government alone could not carry out such tasks like poverty alleviation and social protection of deprived masses in the country.

Dr. Shafqat Muneer, Research Fellow of Sustainable Development Policy Institute, said that the philanthropic contributions being provided by Pakistanis as a nation had always been outstanding as Rs 500 billion was being spent annually in the country as charitable donations. He said that these charitable donations would increase manifold if proper policy was introduced in the country binding upon the corporate sector to do CSR contributions.

In his welcome address, NFEH President Naeem Qureshi said that the CSR Summit was being organized by his non-governmental organization to thoroughly discuss and appreciate excellent efforts being put in by the corporate sector of the country to do welfare and uplift of the disadvantaged people in the country as all the relevant stakeholders were invited for the purpose.