

Introduction of Mr. Jahangir Khan Tareen

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I have no idea how Mr. Jahangir Khan Tareen heard of me and invited me to meet at a lunch where he had invited his friend the Banker Mr. Shaukat Tareen. Jahangir wanted me to initiate an AKRSP type programme in Vehari-Lodhran area. To have him off my back, I tried to dissuade him from the idea because none of the RSPs had any presence there but Jahangir is not used to a negative response. He insisted on telling him what he had to do to convince me to do what he wanted. Off the cuff I blurted a grant of Rs. 30 million for Social Mobilisation and a credit line of Rs. 600 million. Shaukat Tareen responded "done". I couldn't believe my ears and reacted by saying I have no collateral to offer. And prompt came the response "Your track record is your best collateral".

NRSP initiated the programme in Vehari and one day Mr. Tareen took us to his farm in Lodhran, entertained us lavishly and then showed us the three Basic Health Units (BHUs) around his farm area lying derelict and wanted NRSP to make them functional. He would take none of my protestations that this is not RSPs job but he convinced CEO NRSP who was a doctor before joining DMG, to do so by promising to fund everything for revival of the BHUs from his own pocket. The revival of these three units resulted in revival of over 1200 BHUs in Punjab through PRSP and later Jahangir convinced me to initiate similar programme in Sindh under SRSO and then in Balochistan under BRSP and in KP under SRSP.

Jahangir used to go with me to every dialogue I used to hold in Vehari area and liked my approach of instead of talking at the rural people listening to them. He became a great champion of Social Mobilisation

And then to my great regret he joined politics and I lost him but I am still able to force him to do a few things like becoming the Chief Guest this morning. Ladies and Gentlemen Mr. Jahangir Khan Tareen.