

Note for Record

By: Shoaib Sultan Khan
September 21, 2013

Subject: Meeting with Chief Minister (CM), Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP)
September 18, 2013 at Peshawar

On my visit to Swat Kalam with Imran Khan (IK) and others on August 26, 2013, while addressing the members of the Community Organizations of Kalam, I had proposed to IK that the KP government should mobilize the 2.2 million rural households out of the total 2.65 million households living in the rural areas of the 25 districts of KP. The Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) would be willing to undertake this mission on behalf of the Government of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, if requisite resources are made available.

On September 18, 2013 strongly urged by IK and my friend Jahangir Khan Tareen (JKT), the CM KP Mr. Pervez Khattak, asked me for a presentation on the proposal I had made at Swat Kalam, at Peshawar.

The Presentation was attended by the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary (Development) and Secretary Planning and Development Department, besides a few others who accompanied the CM.

The Chief Minister's Poverty Reduction Programme (CMPRP) presented by me to the CM on October 18 at Peshawar and fully approved by the CM has the following highlights:

- Out of total 2.65 million Rural Households in KP
1.22 million households will graduate from extreme poverty/
poverty and have a sustainable income with access to
Community Investment Fund (CIF):

An additional 1.05 million vulnerable poor will be helped not to fall below the poverty line:

1 million households in the extremely poverty band shall be protected with Health Insurance for Rs. 25,000 hospitalization, Rs. 25,000 accidental death, Upto Rs. 25,000 accidental disability.

- In addition, apprenticeship training for gainful employment to 173,200 youth

Support for agriculture to 86,600 farmers
Support for livestock to 43,300 persons
Infrastructure Projects 10392

The total cost of the CMPRP was estimated at 4.5% of 5 years of ADP allocation with a capital outlay of one time grant of Rs. 30 million in five years for a conglomerate of 10-15 proposed Village Councils each. The total amount spread over five years amounted to Rs. 25 billion. Some concerns were expressed by the officials relating to ADP size in future, in view of the proposal of the KP government to allocate Rs. 2 million every year to each Village Council to undertake functions assigned to them. The CM brushed aside the concerns saying the CMPRP has to be implemented and resources will be found.

To reinforce what I had presented, the CEO SRSP Masoodul Mulk made a presentation on the achievements of 40 Union Councils in which CMPRP type programme called BKPAP was implemented by the previous government over a period of 3 years with an allocation of Rs. 1 billion. According to the third party evaluation done by Government of KP through a renounced firm of national and international consultants, the evaluators had opined that BKPAP exceeded all its targets envisaged under the project in terms of input, compared to the baseline Poverty Score Card undertaken at the commencement of Project, there was marked decrease noticed at the end of three years when the same PSC was administered by the evaluators. In many Union Councils over 50% households graduated from extreme poverty band to the band above and some to even higher than that band.

It was an extremely satisfying day for all of us in SRSP and especially for me, who always used to yearn as to when a day will come when like Andhra Pradesh, a provincial government in Pakistan will also adopt the holistic package of Social Mobilisation, to help the rural poor come

out of poverty. KP is setting the example. Hopefully, other provinces or even the federal government might emulate their example in due course of time.

It has taken more than thirty years after initiation of AKRSP, to reach this milestone. On the last page of Noel Cossins' Book "Man in the Hat: The Story of Shoaib Sultan Khan and the Rural Poor of South Asia", the author asks Mr. Sartaj Aziz why the Rural Support Programmes concept did not spread like wildfire throughout the country. The author writes "On this one last point, he (Sartaj Aziz) is adamant. The failure is not Shoaib's, it is the failure of the nation-state of Pakistan to truly serve its people". Sartaj Aziz should be happy that at least KP government is willing to do so.