

12. With the objective of marketing of IRDP goods on model lines and with professionalism a separate cell has been set up in CAPART. A number of 'melas' to popularise and sale of products made by the beneficiaries of rural development programme and voluntary organisations have been organised by CAPART.

13. For facilitative greater coverage of Women under IRDP, group approach of Women beneficiaries has been extended to all district from 1st January, 1990, under which groups of Women forming thrift and credit societies would be provided matching grant for a revolving fund equal to the amount of savings generated by the groups. The matching grant would be subject to ceiling of Rs. 15,000 per group.

14. It has been decided that from 1990-91, 3% of IRDP benefits should be earmarked for physically handicapped person under IRDP.

15. The target for coverage of SC/ST families has been increased from 30% to 50% of total families assisted with effect from 1.4.1990.

Import of Fertilizers

6723. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to drastically cut the import of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the

total quantity of fertilizers to be imported during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Fertilizers are imported to bridge the gap between the assessed demand and the indigenous availability. Some quantities of phosphatic fertilizers would be imported to meet this gap during 1990-91. The entire requirement of potassic fertilizers would be met by imports as there are no known commercially viable sources of this material in the country. However, it would not be in the public interest to disclose the details of the quantities of the fertilizers to be imported.

Drinking Water to Villages of Orissa

6724. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has prescribed priorities for different villages for providing drinking water and sanitation during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-91):

(b) the quantum of external assistance received and utilised so far; and

(c) the number of villages identified under different period priority-categories and achievements made in respect of Orissa, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) The Union Government had prescribed 100% coverage of rural population with safe drinking water and 25% of rural population