

The Central Government's budget for 1985-86 proposes a sum of Rs. 214.50 crores for Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). This is more or less at the same level as the current year and will be enhanced later, if required.

The schemes to be undertaken during 1985-86 will continue to provide for income generating assets to the identified families and strengthening of infrastructure necessary for better utilisation of these assets.

Poverty amongst Fishermen

*169. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the cases of perennial poverty of fishermen and constraints faced by them in increasing fish production through mechanisation; and

(b) if so, steps Government have taken in this regard and the future schemes of Government for uplifting the economic condition of the fishermen ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Fishermen in the traditional Marine Fisheries Sector are recognised as among the economically weaker sections in the country. The State and Central/Union Territory Governments have, therefore, been following a policy of supporting this Sector through a number of production-oriented and welfare programmes aimed at uplifting the economic condition of the fishermen community. Some of the important programmes in this regard are :

- (i) supply of essential fishery requisites on subsidy/loan basis;
- (ii) subsidy on outboard motors, in-board engines and mechanised boats;
- (iii) loan facilities for acquisition of mechanised boats;
- (iv) training programmes for fishermen;
- (v) support for production, marketing,

processing, storage etc. through Cooperatives;

- (vi) development of small landing and berthing facilities along the coasts for traditional and small mechanised boats;
- (vii) brackishwater fish/prawn farming in Maritime States on area development basis;
- (viii) legislation to demarcate areas of operation for traditional boats, small mechanised boats and large fishing vessels; and
- (ix) welfare schemes such as Group Insurance, Techno-socio-economic survey and National Welfare Fund for Fishermen.

The future schemes for the VIIth Plan period are not yet finalised.

Financial Assistance for Improving Water Supply in Bangalore

*170. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYAR : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal seeking financial assistance for Cauvery III Stage scheme to improve the water supply position in Bangalore city; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Karnataka proposes to take up the Cauvery water supply scheme Stage III with World Bank assistance. This is estimated to cost Rs. 2400 million. The proposal has been examined in the Ministry and found technically feasible. The Ministry of Irrigation have made certain observations regarding the need for concurrence of the basin States for any new use of Cauvery waters. The Government of Karnataka have been addressed on these issues. They have been requested to sort out the issues with the Ministry of Irrigation.