

Dr James Takes over as Director

Dr P. S. B. R. James took over charge as Director of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute on 2 September, 1985. Prior to taking up this assignment Dr James was holding the position of Assistant Director General (Fisheries) at ICAR headquarters, New Delhi.

Dr James has had long association with CMFRI, first as research scholar at Mandapam during 1958-61 and later in various capacities such as Research Assistant, Assistant Research Officer and as Joint Director at Mandapam Regional Centre. In between, for about nine years he served the College of Fisheries, Mangalore, under the University of Agricultural Sciences as Research Officer and Professor and Head of the Department of Fishery Biology.

Born at Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh in 1934, Dr James graduated in Zoology from Andhra University and worked for his masters degree in Zoology and doctorate in Fishery Biology at Banaras Hindu University. Research work for Ph.D. degree was done at CMFRI, Mandapam Camp. He has 27 years of rich experience in fisheries research, teaching and administration. During this period he has made very



valuable contributions in systematics, osteology, biology and fishery of various commercially important groups of marine fishes especially the ribbon fishes and silver bellies with large number of publications. He was the recipient of Dr S. L. Hora Gold Medal and Cash Award of the Indian Society of Ichthyologists, Madras in 1983 for outstanding contributions in the field of fishery biology and development of fisheries in the country.

In an informal chat with the Newsletter, on his taking over, Dr James said, "Contributions of CMFRI in research and development of marine fisheries have been commendable. The Institute's efforts to find out ways and means of augmenting fish production have also resulted in the suc-

cessful evolution and communication of low cost mariculture technologies."

Explaining the immediate objectives of the Institute, Dr James said that resource assessment would continue to receive high priority and the programmes would be extended to hitherto unexploited areas. With the improved vessel facilities like FORV Sagar Sampada, the Institute would launch programmes to study the resources' position in the EEZ. Commenting on the technology transfer programmes of the Institute, Dr James said that greater stress would be laid in the translation of the culture technologies for wider field applications. He also said that the educational programmes of CAS in Mariculture would help developing specialised manpower for further development of culture fisheries.

Dr James hopes that, with the cooperation of all related institutes, organisations and universities in the country, CMFRI will embark on the 21 century with a better understanding of potential, distribution and fluctuations in abundance of the marine fisheries resources for their rational exploitation, conservation and management.