

Animal Husbandary & Dairying

8.35 India owns one of the largest livestock population in the world. It accounts for nearly 57 per cent of the world's buffalo population and 16 per cent of the cattle population. Majority of these animals is reared under sub-optimal conditions due to low economic status of the livestock owners; yet, India has now become the largest producer of milk in the world. Table 8.14 shows the trend in milk production and per capita availability. In 1999-2000, besides 78.1 million tonnes of milk, the livestock sector contributed 31.5 billion eggs, 46.4 million kgs. of wool, 4.49 million tonnes of meat and 5.65 million tonnes of fish. Over the years, the contribution of livestock sector to agriculture GDP has increased from 17 to 29 per cent. Livestock sector provides regular employment to 18.4 million people in principal/subsidiary status, which constitutes around 5 per cent of the total workforce.

8.36 Export earnings from livestock sector and related products rose from Rs.1241 crore in 1993-94 to Rs.2073 crore in 1998-99 showing an average annual growth of about 10.8 per

cent. Leather and leather products accounted for as high as 54 per cent (Rs.1129 crore) and meat and meat products accounted for 37 per cent (Rs.772 crore) of the total export from the livestock sector during 1998-99.

TABLE 8.14		
Production and Per Capita Availability of Milk		
Year	Milk Production (Million Tonnes)	Per capita Availability (Grams/Day)
1950-51	17.0	124
1960-61	20.0	124
1970-71	22.0	112
1980-81	31.6	128
1990-91	53.9	176
1996-97	69.1	202
1997-98P	70.8	204
1998-99P	74.7	211
1999-2000@	78.1	214
P - Provisional	@ - Anticipated	