

Fisheries and Aquaculture

8.36 India is the sixth largest producer of fish in the world and second in inland fish production. Fisheries sector occupies a very important place in the socio-economic development of the country. It has been recognised as a powerful income and employment generator as it stimulates growth of a number of subsidiary industries and is a source of cheap and nutritious food, besides emerging as an important item in export trade. This sector is thus an important source of livelihood for a large section of economically backward population of the country, particularly in coastal areas.

8.37 The trend of fish production and export is listed in Table 8.17. Share of marine fish production was 51 per cent of total (marine and inland) output of 52.6 lakh tonnes in 1998-99. The value of export of marine products (including fish) during 1998-99 was Rs. 4627 crore as against Rs. 4697 crore in 1997-98.

8.38 Processing of fish in canned and frozen form is carried out mainly for the export market.

TABLE 8.17
Fish Production and Export of Marine Products

Year	Fish production (Lakh tonnes)			Export of Marine products	
	Marine	Inland	Total	Quantity (Lakh Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crore)
1950-51	5.3	2.2	7.5	0.2	2
1960-61	8.8	2.8	11.6	0.2	4
1970-71	10.9	6.7	17.6	0.4	35
1980-81	15.5	8.9	24.4	0.8	235
1990-91	23.0	15.4	38.4	1.4	893
1996-97	29.7	23.8	53.5	3.0	4121
1997-98	29.5	24.4	53.9	3.8	4697
1998-99(P)	27.0	25.6	52.6	3.9	4627
1999-00(A)	29.1	26.8	55.9	1.6*	2752*

P : Provisional A : Anticipated * April-October, 1999
Source : Deptt. of Animal Husbandary and Dairying.

There are at present 395 freezing units, 13 canning units, 102 individual quick freezing plants (IQF) and 477 cold storage units. Export of marine products during 1998-99 was worth Rs.4627 crore. In dollar terms, export earning from marine products exceed one billion dollars.