

## **SUMMARY**

Livestock activities are preferred by over 90 % of small cultivators and wage - earning farmhand (non - cultivators) households, as a source of supplementary income. Development of livestock sector in rural land would meet the local needs, urban requirements and export demand. Thus, livestock sector will boost up the socio - economic status of the country. India has the largest livestock population and is a largest producer of buffalo meat in the world. Goat, sheep, pigs, cattle, buffaloes and poultry are the major meat animals. Goat, sheep, poultry and pigs are mainly slaughtered for domestic consumption. Meat from cattle and buffaloes is mainly for export. Poultry industry is well organized in India. There has been a phenomenal increase in poultry production in the past three decades. India is the fifth largest egg producer in the world.

Meat produced in the existing slaughterhouses is poor in quality, unhygienic and carries high levels of microbial contamination. It is therefore necessary to improve the conditions in the slaughterhouses or to establish small sized or medium sized modern or semi - modern abattoirs in metro cities, urban, semi - urban and rural areas. This also improves in meat handling practices, recovery and effective utilization of byproducts and waste treatments for pollution control.