

IV. Animal husbandry

Introductory:

The agricultural economy of the Territory is based on the system of mixed-farming under which the cultivable land is utilised for the production of food grains, while its by-products such as straw, etc. are used for feeding the cattle attached to the farm, mainly as draught animals. They also held produce farm-yard manure. The agro-climatic conditions of the Territory are very much similar to those of the adjoining states.

The livestock sector contributed very little towards income generation in this Territory. The contribution was even smaller than in the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu where livestock was relatively less important. The share was below 0.9 per cent. in the Territory in 1960-61 as against 1.8 per cent. in Tamil Nadu and 8 per cent. for All India. This was so because of the poor quality of the local cattle and also the larger number of goats whose economic value was low. The Territory had no good quality breed of cattle and the feed supplied to the livestock population was deficient both in quality and quantity.

Prior to merger, there was no separate out-fit to deal with livestock services in the Territory. There were also no qualified persons to man the services in the initial stage. All that existed was a skeleton staff attached to the Public Health Services in Pondicherry to attend to veterinary functions. The origin of this wing is traced to 1935 when there was a male nurse (vet.) and an attender to attend to the animals. Only during periods of outbreak of cattle diseases, prophylactic measures were taken for the control of such outbreaks. By about 1945, this wing which functioned in the premises of the Government Pharmacy moved out to Orlayanpet. The Veterinary Wing was placed under the care of a Veterinary Surgeon who also attended to the duties of the municipal slaughter house. In 1948, another Veterinary Hospital was opened at Karaikal for the treatment of animals and to attend to the duties of the slaughter house there. It was about this time that concepts of breed development and preventive inoculation, etc. were gaining ground all over India.

Since 1948, the services of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons were obtained from Tamil Nadu. Soon after merger, the Veterinary Wing started functioning as a separate unit with a Veterinary Officer in charge of the Veterinary Hospital in Pondicherry and a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in charge of the

hospital at Karaikal. A band of stockmen compounders brought from Tamil Nadu on deputation along with the veterinary surgeons helped to organise the veterinary services in the Territory.

In 1955 the Veterinary doctor in Pondicherry was declared as Veterinary Officer with jurisdiction over all the four regions. From June 1955, the Veterinary Unit came to be known as the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and the officer-in-charge came to be designated as Director of Animal Husbandry. It is noteworthy that in 1956 a scheme for the grant of six scholarships to citizens of Pondicherry to pursue the B.V.Sc. course was sanctioned in an attempt to attract more students to the profession which had till then not caught their imagination.⁴⁷ Schemes for the improvement of the local livestock and setting up of poultry farms formed part of the I Plan Programme. While the II Plan outlay on Animal Husbandry was Rs. 6.62 lakhs, total expenditure amounted to Rs. 5.67 lakhs. The III Plan outlay stood at Rs. 14 lakhs while expenditure amounted to only Rs. 10.50 lakhs. This shortfall occurred mainly due to the delay in setting up the proposed State Poultry Farm and Piggery Unit.

In 1965 the National Council for Applied Economic Research proposed that the total outlay should be raised to Rs. 25 lakhs in the IV Plan and to Rs. 30 lakhs in the Fifth Plan.⁴⁸ While outlay under the IV Plan was Rs. 29.00 lakhs, V Plan outlay amounted to Rs. 72.40 lakhs.⁴⁹

Livestock population :

The preliminaries for conducting a livestock census in the Territory were completed in February 1960 and the first regular Livestock Census was conducted here as part of the Ninth All-India Quinquennial Livestock Census in 1961. The livestock population of this Territory as revealed by the Livestock Census 1972 was 1,52,646, of which 1,03,374 were found in Pondicherry region, 43,649 in Karaikal region, 2,891 in Mahe region and 2,732 in Yanam region. Out of the total livestock population in the Union Territory, bovine stock forms the largest group numbering as many as 1,01,712 (89,602 cattle and 12,110 buffaloes) representing 66.63 per cent. of the total livestock population. This is followed by ovine stock which number in all 48,787 (41,731 goats and 7,056 sheep) forming 31.96 per cent. (goats 27.34 per cent. and sheep 4.62 per cent.) of the total livestock population. As regards animals viz. horses, ponies, donkeys and pigs, they number 2,147 forming 1.41 per cent. of the livestock population. Detailed regionwise particulars of livestock population in the Territory are given in the following table:

Region wise particulars of livestock population between 1961—1972.

					1961	1966	1972
Cattle	Pondicherry	..	..	..	55,316	48,786	64,772
	Karaikal	..	..	..	21,640	19,960	22,115
	Mahe	..	..	..	1,156	1,204	1,292
	Yanam	..	..	..	1,478	1,599	1,423
	Total	..	..	..	79,590	71,549	89,602
Buffaloes	Pondicherry	..	..	..	5,582	3,998	6,426
	Karaikal	..	..	..	5,299	6,029	5,143
	Mahe	..	..	..	2	5	10
	Yanam	..	..	..	482	541	531
	Total	..	..	..	11,365	10,573	12,110
Sheep	Pondicherry	..	..	..	6,443	6,326	6,101
	Karaikal	..	..	..	1,240	732	802
	Mahe	..	..	..	—	42	—
	Yanam	..	..	..	367	—	153
	Total	..	..	..	8,050	7,100	7,056
Goats	Pondicherry	..	..	..	20,141	17,252	24,185
	Karaikal	..	..	..	13,767	13,466	15,401
	Mahe	..	..	..	1,482	1,282	1,588
	Yanam	..	..	..	111	180	557
	Total	..	..	..	35,501	32,180	41,731
Horses and Ponies	Pondicherry	..	..	..	95	55	11
	Karaikal	..	..	..	25	9	39
	Mahe	..	..	..	2	—	—
	Yanam	..	..	..	8	9	11
	Total	..	..	..	130	73	61

Donkeys	Pondicherry	..	..	..	246	171	187
	Karaikal	..	..	..	3	6	8
	Mahe	..	..	..	—	—	—
	Yanam	..	..	..	—	—	—
	Total	..	..	..	249	177	195
Pigs	Pondicherry	..	..	..	963	1,639	1,692
	Karaikal	..	..	..	150	101	141
	Mahe	..	..	..	—	—	1
	Yanam	..	..	..	48	1,788	1,891
	Total	..	..	..	1,161	1,788	1,891

The above statement shows that the number of cattle in the Territory had declined from 79,590 in 1961 to 71,549 in 1966. The rapid mechanisation of agriculture reduced the dependance of farmers in bullocks which were sold away. Moreover, the process of selective breeding and management also induced the sale of uneconomical and unproductive animals in the Territory.

The important species of livestock prevalent in the Territory are cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, horses, ponies, donkeys and pigs. The proportion of cattle and goats in the Territory is relatively much higher and of sheep lower compared to Tamil Nadu.

Livestock conditions :

The Territory is not a breeding tract of any good quality livestock and the cattle are mostly of a non-descript variety. However, various breeds and their crosses are met with here. Only popular local breeds of cattle are utilised for agricultural purposes and draught operations. Bullocks continue to be the main source of draft power for agriculture. They are also used for ploughing and carting and sometimes for drawing water from wells for irrigation. Only recently well irrigation is being carried out manually or by pump sets. The Umbalacherry type of work animals is common in Karaikal only. The Kangeyan breed of work animals is also popular, followed by Mysore

breeds like Hallikar and Amrithambal. As regards milch cows, no definite breed types are predominant, although various grades of Jersey and crosses as well as Holstein Fresian are preferred in Pondicherry. As the result of the work carried out under the Key Village Scheme, various grades of Sindhi assumed preponderance over other grades and crosses. Since 1970 Jersey Cross breeds were popularised in the area. In Mahe and Yanam regions all except very few are non-descript.

Buffaloes mostly of local varieties are reared for milk purposes. Various grades of Murrah breed are also very common. The exotic varieties that are reared for milk are Sindhi, Ongole, Mysore, Jersey and cross breed Murrah buffaloes.

Cattle are generally housed in small ill-ventilated thatched sheds, although in urban areas they are better cared for than in rural areas. Buffaloes are mostly allowed to remain in the open. Tiled sheds can also be met with. The ryots are increasingly being persuaded to build better and well ventilated sheds through subsidy under the Community Development Programme.

The paucity of additional land for cultivation, combined with the high pressure of population on land, makes it imperative that the livestock sector is properly organised and improved in an attempt to supplement the income of the families and to provide part-time work to the under employed in the Territory. The absence of high breed cattle, lack of fodder resources and an efficient marketing organisation were said to be the main deterrents to the growth of this sector in the Territory. The National Council for Applied Economic Research gave a graphic description of the state of animal husbandry in 1965 in the following words: "The local animals are very poor in quality. They are of non-descript variety and there is no good breed available locally. That apart, there is a great deficiency of cattle feed both in fodder and concentrates. In the entire rural area there is no practice of feeding concentrates to the cattle; only a few persons give oil cake. The area under pasture and grass land and that under fodder cultivation is practically negligible. The main food is the rice husk, which too is not adequate for the large cattle population. It is only in towns that well fed cattle of good breed are found. The average milk yield of cow is a little over two lbs. There is no organised dairy in the State for milk supply to the public. Good milk is rare." The Council further said that fodder deficiency was very serious, and pointed out

that unless fodder cultivation was commercially undertaken this deficiency was likely to continue. The Council, therefore, called for an integrated programme of cattle development. Explaining the expression 'integrated planning', it said that "in the selected areas where the scheme of upgrading the cows is introduced, enough area should be brought under fodder and also proper arrangements made for the collection and marketing of the milk". Conditions have improved since then. Today, the Territory has the benefit of a well established modern dairy. The milk trade is well organised under the co-operative sector. The exotic cross breed calf is almost an ubiquitous factor of the village stratum.

Key Village Centres:

In keeping with the policy that in areas of non-descript type of cattle, cattle improvement must be effected by grading up the local stock by high grade Sindhi bulls, an infrastructure was sought to be built by establishing Key Village Centres in the Territory. The Pondicherry Key Village Centre was started on 10 December 1956 and the Karaikal Key Village Centre, on 19 November 1957. According to the original pattern, a Key Village Centre was to be provided for a block of 10,000 breedable cow population. But in Pondicherry region alone the breedable population exceeded 25,000 and hence the operations of the Key Village Centre could not cover the entire cattle population. The Pondicherry Centre was, therefore, expanded to cover areas hitherto left uncovered. The Bahur and Tirukkanur Dispensaries and the Veterinary Aid Centres at Thimmanayakenpalayam and Katterikuppam also perform the functions of a Key Village Unit, each under the care of a qualified Livestock Assistant. At present there are three Key Village Centres, two in Pondicherry and one in Karaikal, with 23 and seven Key Village Units attached to them respectively.

Details of all Key Village Units in the Territory are furnished below :

Sl. No.	Key Village Units	Commune	Attached to
1.	Pondicherry-Valakulam	Pondicherry	Key Village Centre, Pondicherry.
2.	Thengathittu	Mudaliyarpettai	"
3.	Ariyankuppam	Ariyankuppam	"

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Key village units</i>	<i>Commune</i>	<i>Attached to</i>
4.	Tavalakuppam	Ariyankuppam	Key Village Centre, Pondicherry.
5.	Thimmanayakenpalayam	Ariyankuppam	Veterinary Aid Centre, T.N. Palayam.
6.	Reddiyarpalaiyam	Ozhukarai	Key Village Centre, Pondicherry.
7.	Mettuppalaiyam	Ozhukarai	"
8.	Karuvadikkuppam	Ozhukarai	"
9.	Kalapet	Ozhukarai	"
10.	Bahur	Bahur	Veterinary Dispensary, Bahur.
11.	Seliyamedu	Bahur	"
12.	Kirumambakkam	Bahur	"
13.	Karaiyamputtur	Bahur	"
14.	Kariyamanikkam	Nettappakkam	Rural Artificial Insemination Centre, Kariyamanikkam.
15.	Madukkarai	Nettappakkam	"
16.	Pudukkuppam	Nettappakkam	"
17.	Villiyannur	Villiyannur	Veterinary Dispensary, Villiyannur.
18.	Uruvaiyar	Villiyannur	"
19.	Tondamanattam	Villiyannur	"
20.	Sedarappattu	Villiyannur	"
21.	Tirukkanur	Mannadippattu	Veterinary Dispensary, Tirukkanur.
22.	Tiruvandarkovil	Mannadippattu	"
23.	Katterikuppam	Mannadippattu	Veterinary Aid Centre, Katterikuppam.
24.	Karaikal	Karaikal	Key Village Centre, Karaikal.
25.	Vilidiyur	Niravi	"
26.	Niravi	Niravi	"

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Key village units</i>	<i>Commune</i>	<i>Attached to</i>
27.	T.R. Pattinam	T.R. Pattinam	Key Village Centre, Karaikal.
28.	Nedungadu	Nedungadu	Veterinary Dispensary, Nedungadu.
29.	Kottuchcheri	Kottuchcheri	„
30.	Tennagudi	Tirunallar	Veterinary Dispensary, Tennagudi.
31.	Mahe	Mahe	Veterinary Aid Centre, Mahe.
32.	Pallur	Mahe	Veterinary Dispensary, Mahe.
33.	Yanam	Yanam	Veterinary Dispensary, Yanam.
34.	Adivipolam	Yanam	Veterinary Aid Centre, Adivipolam.

It is to be noted that there are no livestock breeding farms, either state managed or private, in the Territory. Added to this, there are no institutions devoted to livestock research, training and veterinary education to boost up measures designed to improve the quality of breeds or productivity of livestock in the Territory.

At the initial stages of the Key Village Scheme there was an acute shortage of high pedigree bulls. Hence, artificial insemination was adopted as the chief mode of breeding. It was later decided to provide natural service in the Key Village Centres. Pedigree bulls were supplied to farmers free of cost under certain conditions, supported by a maintenance grant for their proper upkeep.

Schemes for improving the genetic quality in relation to production potential of cattle also received attention in the Territory. Under one such scheme, pedigree breeding bulls were supplied to farmers, free to cost, together with a reasonable maintenance grant. Between 1959 and 1969, the department supplied 39 bulls in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions after which there was no demand for the same, since by that time, practically all the villages were covered by the Key Village Scheme. This scheme was, therefore, discontinued in 1969 as it was no more found useful.

The result of the insemination programme which was popularised in the Territory since 1955 was found not commensurate with the expenditure incurred. Following the all-India study of the problem, it was decided that cross breeding of the local cows with exotic bulls of high potential should be preferred to the policy of grading-up hitherto followed. Subsequently the Pondicherry Key Village Centre switched over to cross breeding with Jersey semen along with Sindhi-Murrah bulls. This programme sought to eliminate the use of Sindhi bulls and to cover the entire region by 1972. The scheme was then extended to other regions as well.

Calf rearing is another important programme implemented under the Key Village Scheme. A large number of newly born female calves are selected for subsidised rearing under the scheme. The farmers are paid at the rate of Rs. 10 per month for rearing their calves from the 6th to 24th month.

Artificial Insemination Centres :

The cattle population in Mahe and Yanam being very small, these two regions have not been provided with separate Key Village Centres. Instead, they are provided with Urban Artificial Insemination Centres which are located at Pallur (Mahe) and Yanam. The only Rural Artificial Insemination Centre is located at Kariyamanikkam. Insemination service is offered also by the Veterinary Dispensaries at Tirukkanur and Bahur, at the Veterinary Aid Centres attached to the Veterinary Dispensaries at Pallur and Yanam and by the Veterinary Aid Centres at Thimmanayakenpalayam and Katterikuppam. In terms of coverage of breedable population, it may be stated that 50 per cent. of the breedable animals in Pondicherry and 25 per cent. in Karaikal have been brought under artificial insemination. The entire livestock in Mahe has been efficiently covered by artificial insemination while the coverage is poor in Yanam.

Animal diseases :

Communicable diseases : Foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, haemorrhagic septicaemia, black-quarter and anthrax are the prevalent communicable diseases in Pondicherry region. Rabies is also common. T.B. is rarely noticed. So also Johne's disease and protozoan diseases. Other infectious diseases like mastitis and calf scour are common. Chronic bovine lymphagitis is

occasionally noticed. Other contagious/non-contagious diseases that affect the livestock in the Territory are lymphangitis, catarrhal enteritis, ephemeral fever, nasal schistosomiasis, piroplasmosis, eczema, besides fits and blindness in new born calves.

The diseases mainly prevalent among goats in Mahe are mastitis (wet gangrene), dystokia, retained placenta and verminous pneumonia and bronchitis. Bovine and canine diseases are the same as in other regions.

Fowlpox, cocceidiosis, paralysis, coryza, diarrhoea and ranikhet are the diseases that often attack the fowls in epidemic form in all the four regions. Large scale vaccination of breeds against ranikhet and fowlpox has considerably reduced the incidence of mortality of fowls due to epidemics. The Rinderpest Eradication Programme launched in 1969-70 has not only brought down the mortality rate but also totally checked the incidence of the disease in the Territory.

Non-communicable diseases : Dyspepsia, enteritis, bronchitis, bloat, urinary calculi, etc. are the diseases that often attack livestock in all the four regions. Worm infestation is also very common. The nature of cases treated in Pondicherry and Karaikal are more or less the same.

Veterinary hospitals/dispensaries :

The Pondicherry Veterinary Hospital (Orlayanpet) is provided with all modern equipments, including X-ray facilities. The Mobile Veterinary Dispensary with headquarters at Pondicherry visits remote areas according to routine schedules. In 1966, a Clinical Laboratory was set up at Pondicherry to facilitate prompt diagnosis and correct treatment of diseases.

In Karaikal region, the Veterinary Hospital originally located at Settur was subsequently shifted to Karaikal town. The Mobile Veterinary Dispensary attached to it serves the remote areas of Karaikal. The Veterinary Dispensaries in Pondicherry region are located at Kariyamanikkam, Bahur, Tirukkanur and Villiyannur. In Karaikal region, they are located at Nedungadu and Tennagudi. Mahe region has the facility of a Veterinary Dispensary at Pallur started in 1956 and a Veterinary Aid-Centre at Mahe town established in 1970. Nearly half of the cases treated here are bovines, buffaloes being practically nil. Goats in Mahe are good milk yielders. Hence their treatment assumes some importance here.

The Veterinary Dispensary in Yanam was established in 1956 and the Veterinary Aid Centre at Adivipolam in 1969. Here buffaloes form about 50 per cent. of the cases treated.

Goshalas :

Another important scheme aimed at improving the quality of the stock was the establishment of Goshalas in the Territory. One such Goshala was maintained by the Tirunallar Devasthanam and another by Viyomashram in Villiyanur. Both the institutions were supplied with 10 cross breed cows and one Sindhi bull. The grant-in-aid and subsidy thus granted to these institutions amounted to Rs. 25,000 each. As the results were not found encouraging, the opening of more goshalas in the Territory was abandoned. There are no Goshalas to help segregate old and disabled animals in the Territory.

Fodder and grazing conditions:

The prevalent impression is that there are no common grazing grounds in the Territory, although there are indications of the existence of common grazing grounds in many villages. The present fate of these grazing fields is not known, for want of precise data.⁵⁰ It would, perhaps, require some effort to identify these grazing fields from land records. The grass yield in the pastures, mostly porambokes, is low because of unregulated grazing. Apart from these common grazing grounds, there are small chunks of single crop lands in Pondicherry region that are kept fallow between harvest and transplantation to allow cattle to graze. In Karaikal region, grazing facilities are extremely limited as most of the area is under paddy cultivation. In-between harvest and transplantation, lands are sometimes utilised for grazing purposes, but no fodder crop is cultivated for want of irrigation facilities during the third crop season. The system of mixed farming had a dampening effect on fodder cultivation in both these regions. There are no lands available for fodder cultivation in Mahe. As a general practice cattle are allowed to graze on river bunds and in paddy fields after harvest.

Apart from grass, paddy, ragi and cholam, straw is also used as cattle feed. Especially during the dry season, straw becomes indispensable as feed for livestock. Concentrate feeds such as ground-nut, oil cake, bengalgram, husk, ragi flour, horsegram, wheet, rice bran as well as cotton seeds are utilised as animal feeds. Guinea and Napier grasses are also fed to the animals.

In 1965 the National Council for Applied Economic Research pointed out that in order to increase the fodder supply for the livestock which was very essential for improving their quality, the area under fodder crop should be increased to at least 1000 ha. by 1975. The report further suggested that even some of the irrigated lands could be used for growing fodder crops which would bring a better return than some of the millets. It was also pointed out that grass yield could be substantially stepped up by proper management and fencing of grazing fields in the Territory.

The fodder development programme was launched in the Territory only during the III Plan period. The idea was to evolve a new regimen suited to fit into the agricultural practices based on crop husbandry and at the same time be efficient enough to prove the comparative economy of fodder cultivation vis-à-vis cereal crops. Specified quantities of fodder *chulam* or *irungu chulam* were supplied to the ryots at half cost together with subsidies to encourage fodder cultivation in the Territory. The Directorate of Animal Husbandry started distributing cowpea since 1972 which was sought after very much by the ryots because of its higher yield. Similarly grass slips-both root slips and stem cuttings-are also distributed at subsidised rates. Details of area under fodder cultivation since 1969 are furnished below :

			No. of ha. under fodder cultivation	No. of grass slips supplied
1969-70	..	..	40.00	9,500
1970-71	..	..	62.80	1,81,000
1971-72	..	..	71.60	1,62,000
1972-73	..	..	68.80	20,100
1973-74	..	..	91.00	35,000

The benefits of balanced feeding was sought to be popularised through propaganda, supplies and services. By 1961-62 balanced ready mix cattle feeds were made available in Pondicherry and Karaikal by private manufacturers. From 1967 the Co-operative Milk Supply Society started supplying ready mixes to its members. Subsidised supply of complete balanced ready mix

cattle feed was introduced in Mahe block from 1963. Between 1960 and 1966, the Directorate supplied mineral mixtures and vitamin supplements to cattle owners at very cheap rates. Nowadays, the Co-operative Milk Supply Union and the dairy farmers resort to their purchase in the local market where they are freely available.

Dairy farming:

No proper survey has so far been conducted to estimate the milk yield rates of the various categories of livestock in the Territory. The majority of the cattle being of the non-descript type and under-nourished, their milk yield is generally very low. The cows are generally milked twice a day. According to an estimate worked out in 1965-66 based on the yield rate of milk in Tamil Nadu, the yield rate of different breeds of cattle in the Territory was as follows:

	Litres
1. Sindhi cow ..	5.0
2. Cross breed cow ..	6.5
3. Local breed cow ..	2.0

On that basis, production of milk in the Territory was reckoned as follows:

	Quintals
1. Cows' milk ..	57,625
2. Buffaloes' milk ..	25,252
3. Goats' milk ..	1,257
Total ..	84,134

Regionwise details of milk production in 1965-66 were as follows:

(In quintals)

	Pondicherry	Karaikal	Mahe	Yanam	Total
Cows' milk ..	37,810	16,571	1,535	1,709	57,625
Buffaloes' milk ..	9,444	14,129	25	1,654	25,252
Goats' milk ..	640	552	60	5	1,257
Total ..	47,894	31,252	1,620	3,368	84,134

The estimated output of different milk products in the Territory is given below :

Ghee	..	1,355	quintals
Butter	..	32	„
Curd	..	10,651	„

On the basis of the estimated production of milk for 1965-66, and the then projected population (estimated population as on 1 March 1966) the per capital availability of milk worked out to 59 grams *per diem*.

The most conspicuous achievement under livestock development in Pondicherry is the success of the co-operative movement in dairy-farming, although in 1965 the National Council for Applied Economic Research pointed out that the absence of a dairy scheme was an important lacuna in the livestock development programme of the Territory. The Centre further pointed out that without an organised dairy for collecting milk from the villages, there cannot be any proper incentive for the villagers to improve the breeds. In fact until the year 1966 there was no organised dairy in the Territory. Now, all the regions except Yanam have organised Co-operative Milk Supply Services.

The Pondicherry Dairy (Kurumbettai) started functioning with effect from 12 April 1971. The pasteurisation plant which started functioning with an initial target of 10,000 litres per day is expandable to 22,000 litres per day.

In Karaikal and other regions, cooling and pasteurisation are not being carried out at present. The volume of transaction in Karaikal is considerable but the handling is complicated due to fluctuation of output between the lean and flush seasons. The production of milk in the flush season is about 2,000 litres and in the lean season only about 800 litres in Karaikal.

Besides the co-operative milk supply societies, there are a large number of private milk vendors who have their own purchase and sales network in the Territory. Although they carry on a flourishing business they do not process the milk. They sell their entire collection as whole milk.

Abattoirs :

There are three slaughter houses ⁵¹ [Pondicherry-Ambedkar Nagar, Karaikal (rue Thomas Aroul) and Nellithope]. The meat inspection work at the Pondicherry Abattoirs is carried out by a veterinarian specially appointed for the purpose. The Report on Livestock Census 1966 drew pointed attention to the fact that the slaughter houses call for improvement in order to produce and sell good quality meat under hygienic conditions to the general public. Schemes for the improvement of the slaughter houses were said to be under the consideration of the municipalities concerned. The slaughter of young, very old and pregnant animals are not allowed in the Territory.

The statement below gives the estimated production of meat regionwise during 1965-66: ⁵²

(In quintals)

Category of meat	Pondicherry	Karaikal	Mahe	Yanam	Total
Mutton (Sheep and Goat)	1,150	693	62	11	1,916
Beef	471	193	11	15	690
Buff. meat	93	140	—	13	246
Pork	140	9	—	4	153

The output of bones was placed at 1,881 quintals. Although there were a few bone crushing mills during the French period there are none at present in the Territory.

The annual availability of skins and hides regionwise is given below: ⁵³

Category of hides and skins	Pondicherry	Karaikal	Mahe	Yanam	Total
Cattle hides	4,927	2,016	103	180	7,226
Buff. hides	460	693	—	63	1,216
Sheep skins	2,524	292	—	17	2,833
Goat skins	7,763	6,060	576	82	14,481

While meat is consumed locally, raw materials such as hides, skins, bones, horns, etc. are bought by dealers from Tamil Nadu for further processing. Some years ago, however, a small quantity used to be retained for tanning.

Sheep and Goat Development :

In Pondicherry and Karaikal, a good number of sheep and goats are of a low quality with poor yield and growth. Mahe region, however, forms part of the breeding tract of the famous Tellicherry breed of goats. It is rightly called the "poor man's cow" because it yields more milk than the local cow and that too at a cheaper cost of feeding. No part of the Territory is suitable for rearing wool quality sheep.

The absence of good quality goat and sheep made it imperative to develop a well maintained stock and also to improve the growth rate of sheep and their mutton quality. Naturally the problem of improving the standard of sheep and goats received attention under the II Plan.

Tellicherry bucks were procured from the breeding tract and made available to the public in exchange for the local non-descript breeds. Similarly high yielding and quick growing Nellore rams were also supplied to the public on exchange basis. While the superior breeding stock was supplied to the farmers without any extra cost, care was also taken for the proper maintenance of the stock by the farmers. This scheme proved very popular in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions. Nevertheless, farmers continued to purchase the ordinary stock from other sources. In order to counteract such a practice, the exchange scheme was continued.

Piggery Development :

The stock of pigs available in the Territory are mainly the local non-descript variety. The pork consuming population is also small. However, in order to encourage pig breeding as a profitable trade and to make available good quality pork at reasonable price to the consuming public, steps were taken to promote pig breeding in 1961. As an initial step, exotic breeding male stock was supplied to pig rearing farmers free of cost. About the same time, a Pig Breeding Unit was established as an adjunct to the State Poultry Farm at Kariyamanikkam. The Unit was intended to supply pork to the consumers.

However, there was not enough demand, and the unit had to be closed down. Those rearing pig locally do not stall feed their stock. Hence the maintenance cost is negligible enabling them to sell their stock at a low price. The Fifth Plan included schemes for renewing the attempts at introducing improved strains of pigs with emphasis on modern methods of pig rearing through methods of stall feeding.

Poultry-farming :

The common species of poultry found in this Territory are fowls and ducks. The total poultry population according to the 1961 livestock census was 1,01,614. By 1966, it rose to 1,17,661. In other words, the poultry population increased by 15.79 per cent. in the course of five years. By 1972, it increased to 1,80,343 registering a further increase of 53.27 per cent. Of these, 1,19,250 are found in Pondicherry region, 50,875 in Karaikal region, 6,431 in Mahe region and 3,787 in Yanam region. Guinea fowls, turkeys, etc. which are classified as 'other poultry' number 774 and form only 0.46 per cent. Detailed statistics of the Territory's poultry population regionwise are furnished below :

		1961	1966	1972
Fowls	Pondicherry	59,129	57,267	1,13,666
	Karaikal	30,138	36,810	49,500
	Mahe	3,501	4,233	6,357
	Yanam	2,602	4,715	3,520
	Total ..	95,370	1,03,025	1,73,043
Ducks	Pondicherry	4,502	3,352	5,391
	Karaikal	475	225	801
	Mahe	17	8	67
	Yanam	61	41	267
	Total ..	5,055	3,626	6,526

		1961	1966	1972
Other poultry	Pondicherry	578	350	193
	Karaikal	601	138	574
	Mahe	—	—	7
	Yanam	10	—	—
	Total ..	1,189	488	774
Grand total ..		1,01,614	1,07,139	1,80,343

Generally White Leghorn, Australops, Rhode Island Reds, etc. are the main breeds available in the Territory in addition to non-descript desi-birds. The production of high yielding strain of birds is in the hands of private firms which mainly produce cross breeds. The major difficulty encountered is that the laying quality of birds is highly influenced by feeding practices.

The Techno-Economic Survey Report of 1965 pinpointed two hurdles hampering poultry development in the Territory viz. the un-economic size of poultry farms and lack of well developed markets.

The Directorate of Animal Husbandry resorted to the strategy of maintaining the farms as demonstration centres while catering to the needs of the area. Training courses were arranged to impart training to farmers on modern methods of scientific poultry keeping. As a result of the measures taken since merger, poultry farming has become a popular occupation among the marginal farmers and agricultural labourers and a hobby even among the well-to-do sections.

The backyard system of poultry farming is prevalent in the rural areas. The introduction of graded stock has made the avocation more profitable.

The Directorate made available to the backyard poultry raisers pedigree cocks in exchange for their local cocks in an attempt to discourage the spread of local breeds. The high yielding strains of exotic birds used for intensive farm practices were not found suitable for backyard poultry raising as they were highly susceptible to diseases.

The number of poultry farmers in the private sector is never constant as all those who take active interest do not subsist for long in the field as such efforts call for diligent attention and the introduction of techniques of scientific management. In some cases, poultry farmers give up their attempts, once departmental incentives offered at the initial stage are withdrawn. The open market fluctuations in the price of poultry feed is another threat facing the poultry farmers.

As early as 1956, a Pilot Poultry Farm was set up as an adjunct to the Pondicherry Veterinary Hospital at Orlayanpet. Exotic birds were obtained from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute at Izatnagar for the farm. The State Poultry Farm at Kariyamanikkam was set up in 1965 with a view to ensuring the supply of breeding stock and hatching eggs to the Regional Units at Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam and catering to the needs of the Pondicherry region for eggs and meat. All the regional farms served as extension units. The inadequacy of the potentials of the breeds is reported to hamper the growth of the poultry farms in the Territory.

It was found that the mortality rate of birds in the State Farms was as high as 38 per cent. in the year 1967-68. However, during 1973-74 the mortality rate came down to 9 per cent. due to better management. The farm incurred loss, due to low hatching results and high mortality rates of birds.⁵⁴

A Feed-mixing and Grinding Plant was established in September 1971 as an adjunct to the State Farm to meet its own requirements. The requirements of the Villiyanur Block was also met by this plant. The surplus feed manufactured by the plant is sold to the public at cost price. The requirements of Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency also came to be met by the plant in due course.

Cattle and poultry shows

Cattle shows, calf rallies, milk yield competition and fodder yield competition have become a regular feature in recent times. Cattle and poultry shows are held every year in all the regions. These efforts have helped increase milk production, which has trebled since 1956.

Dressing plant :

The National Council for Applied Economic Research suggested in 1965, the setting up of a dressing plant in order to make available ready-to-cook poultry meat. This suggestion was later reiterated in the Evaluation Report which was submitted to the Government in 1969. 55

Finally a dressing plant with cold storage facilities was set up in Pondicherry town on 16 November 1971. The plant not only ensures supply of wholesome poultry meat to the consuming public at fair price but also helps utilise all culled birds. The scheme is functioning successfully and is very popular. The sale price originally fixed at Rs. 6 per kg. was subsequent by increased to Rs. 9. The dressed meat is available on Sundays and important public holidays. Stocks are not adequate for supplying birds every day.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Pondicherry :

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Pondicherry which took shape sometime in June 1971, was formally inaugurated on 22 January 1972. Functioning under the patronage of the Lieutenant-Governor, the affairs of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are looked after by an executive committee. An Inspector was appointed in October 1973 to assist the Secretary of the Society. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals receives financial assistance from the All-India Animal Welfare Board for carrying on its activities.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 was extended to this Territory in October 1963. Proposals for enforcing the provisions of the Act were under consideration.

V. Fisheries

Introductory :

All the four maritime regions of Pondicherry Territory cover a coastline of about 45 km. with 675 sq. km. of inshore waters and also about 1,350 hectares of cultivable inland water area.

Except framing the rules for disposing of the inland water fishing rights, no significant development had taken place in this sector before merger. The fishermen had to rely on their indigenous crafts and tackles, and be content