INTRODUCTION
Lymphadenitis is the outcome of either localisation of irritant in the gland or a reaction in the node as a consequence of distant inflammatory process drained by the particular node. It bears a distinct impact on the diseased conditions in all individuals including meat-purpose animals. As lymph glands act as sentry over the different regions of the body, they bear great importance in diagnosing the diseases in animals as they trap the offenders in their drainage area. Therefore, regular examination of lymph glands in meat-purpose animals is needed to detect the wholesomeness of the product.

The infectious agents which usually damage the tissue gain entry in the lymphnodes draining the area and get entrapped or destroyed, whatever the case may be. Thus, the resorptive and defensive activities are combined together to develop actual lymphadenitis. Primary complex formation following introduction of *Mycobacteria* may constitute one of the best examples to elucidate the statement and usually it is accompanied by subsequent involvement of regional lymphnodes. However, even in absence of detectable lesion in a drained area, the sentinel lymphnode may bear the hallmark of infection characterised by acute or chronic inflammatory change as the phagocytes and immunocompetent cells try their level best to fight out the pathogen after bringing the offender in the fort which is armoured with lymphocytes capable of giving
rise to humoral and cell-mediated immune responses (Carpenter, 1975). It is, therefore, obvious that examination of lymphnodes, even of an apparently healthy individual, would tend to reveal the post-infection incidences and there remains also a likelihood to identify the offender from the organ. Systematic study of lymphnodes of slaughtered animals has, therefore, been taken up as a major step for meat inspection (Thronton and Gracey, 1974).

The science of meat inspection, therefore, renders maximum emphasis on systemic study of lymphnodes of a carcase slaughtered for meat-purpose. In case of detection of lymphadenitis, the drainage area is generally discarded, the extent of which, however, depends on the agents involved in causation of lymphadenitis (Thronton and Gracey, 1974).

Corynebacteria, Salmonella spp. Mycobacteria, Staphylococci, Streptococci, etc. are well-known lymphadenitis causing bacterial agents in sheep and goats (Smith, Jones and Hunt 1972; Thronton and Gracey 1974; Hepsey and Wilson and Miles 1975; Buxton and Fraser, 1977).

In case of sheep and goats viral agents like Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), Rinderpest, Bluetongue may also
cause Lymphadenitis (Brandly and Jungherr, 1964; Buxton and Fraser, 1977).

Mycotic agents have been reported causing pneumatic lesions in sheep and goats. Coccidioidomycosis, aspergillosis, blastomycosis, cryptococcosis, nocardiosis etc. are recorded in sheep and goat causing pulmonary affections and regional lymphnode involvement (Jungerman and Schwartzman, 1972; Vashishtha, 1982).

Parasitic agents are also involved in lymphadenitis as they often lodge the glands accidentally. The larvae of lungworms (Muellerius spp. Protostrongylus spp. etc.) may take the lymphatic route in course of their migration. Sometimes they get entry into the bronchial and mediastinal nodes and develop a granulomatous lymphadenitis.

_Fasciola hepatica_ (mature or immature stages) may be found in the mesentric lymphnodes in ruminants. _Oesophagostomum columbianum_ larvae may be found in lymphnodes of sheep. _Linguatula serrata_ larvae are very commonly found in the mesenteric lymphnodes in cattle and sheep. The condition leads to caseation and calcification of lymphnodes which may
be confused with tuberculosis in advance stage. (Jubb and Kennedy 1970; Thronton and Gracey 1974).

Various neoplastic growths, either as a result of metastases or primary affections may cause abnormalities in lymphnodes of sheep and goats (Monlux et al 1956; Moulton 1961). Though primary neoplasms of lymphglands are seldom in occurrence, metastatic tumours like carcinomas and malignant melanomas are found common, which enter the lymph vessels through metastatic process. Moulton (1961) observed lymphomas and lymphosarcomas in sheep with metastases in other organs.

In course of studying lymphadenitis, one may find lymphnodes harbouring some foreign particles. Sheep and goats belonging to an area where there is chance of inhalation of coal dusts polluting the air may develop not only anthracosis, but the lymphnode in the bronchial area may contain the same (Thronton and Gracey 1974).

It is evident from the preceding paragraphs that multiple factors or agents are responsible for causing lymphadenitis in sheep and goats. It is, therefore, possibly of some help to understand the reasons behind the occurrence of lymphadenitis in these species, if one probes for the same.
Although lymphadenitis in course of meat inspection and studying systemic disease processes has been dealt with as elaborated earlier, but lymphadenitis in sheep and goats as a subject has not possibly been taken up by any worker so far.

The present work is, therefore, taken up with an attempt to throw light on the subject by collecting materials from slaughtered sheep and goats in abattoirs.

The results of the study would be helpful:

(a) to detect pathogens present in the system of sheep and goats which may turn into killers,

(b) to increase the quantity of consumable meat from carcasses as far as practicable, through adopting suitable health coverage programme against the pathogens found out, and

(c) to enhance the efficient feed conversion through rearing disease-free stock.

Keeping in view the above, it is proposed to conduct a study on the lymphadenitis of sheep and goats basing on the inspection of lymphnodes in slaughter houses. The lymphnodes showing any gross alterations would be subjected to cultural examination attempting isolation of the causative bacterial
or fungal agents. Attempt would not be made for isolation of viral aetiological agents as the same are generally responsible for development of frank clinical illness and such type of animals are not subjected to slaughter for meat-purpose.