CHAPTER IX

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY IN THE AREA
UNDER STUDY.

General Introduction:-

The second most important rural development programme, next to agriculture, is development of animal husbandry. The number of cattle is highest in India but quality is very poor. Programmes for the development of animal husbandry and fisheries in the rural areas have been in operation for a number of years. The State Agriculture Department and other concerned departments were responsible for the implementation of these programmes. Even after the introduction of community development blocks, the departments continued to play an important role. Needless to say, for the proper development of agriculture where the cultivators still depend on the traditional methods of conducting agricultural operations, development of animal husbandry becomes quite necessary. With this view, the agricultural departments have been working from the very beginning in this field of animal husbandry.

The main objective of the programme in the field has always been to increase the level of productivity and performance of livestock and other animals in the rural area. The main factors affecting this efficiency relate to the three well-known aspects of animal husbandry—breeding, feeding and disease control.
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In the present survey an effort has been made to study the nature and intensity of the measures taken to bring about improvement in these three aspects and the impact thereof. The data relating to the improvement in the field of animal husbandry were collected from all the blocks. The villagers were also asked about the benefits they could derive due to this programme in their block.

From the blocks the data were collected on the progress made in regard to programmes for (i) up-grading the breed of animals (ii) supply of food and fodder development and (iii) the disease control through veterinary aid facilities. In addition to this, steps taken for the development of poultry, piggery and other types of animal husbandry, were also noted in the survey.

Breeds Prior to Community Development Programme in the Area:

Relative to its land area, M.P. has fewer animals than the average for India and there quality is poor although M.P. has 17.7 acres of grass land per 100 heads of cattle, compared with 9 acres for all India. Likewise in the region under study the improved breeds was lacking prior to the programme. The cattle have been and even today they are to some extent, so poor and ill fed as a general rule, that there was a serious deficiency in cattle power. Absence of nutritious grass, the religious sentiments against slaughter even of worthless cattle and absence of selective breeding on any noticeable scale have been perpetuating the poor species and rendering an increasing number of them uneconomic as aids to the production. The milk yield has also been quite unsatisfactory. The observation has revealed that no measures were taken to improve the
breeds in the area prior to the inception of the programme, though there has been some variation in the existing breed of animals in the region in that in some region of Sagar district classified under Haveli the breeds have been found better than other parts of the remaining district.

**Improvement of the Breeds of Livestock:**

For the purpose of improvement of breeds of livestock many measures have been taken by the government in the field of animal husbandry. Such measures include the supply of pedigree bulls and other animals for the breeding purposes, setting up of artificial insemination centres and castration of scrub bulls.

**Supply of Pedigree Bulls and Other Animals:**

In all the 12 blocks surveyed, this item was included among their activities. In the survey it has been noticed that much emphasis has been laid upon supplying of breeding bulls. In three blocks other animals have also been supplied for the purpose of breeding. Out of this, in two blocks he-buffaloes have been supplied and in one block pigs have also been distributed. The supply of these other animals seems to have been dictated by the type of husbandry practised in particular areas. In order to develop the poultry, the poultry birds have been supplied in all the blocks.

Regarding the supply of bulls, the figures for 5 years from 1961-62 to 1965-66 were collected. The figures of one block could not be available. No uniformity was observed in the distribution of bulls in the blocks; during 5 years the number of the
bulls ranged from 5 to 22. On average 12 bulls were supplied in every block.

The method adopted to run the above programme is that pedigree bulls are supplied under the premium scheme i.e. on payment of a certain sum by the villagers, an equal amount being provided by the government for its maintenance. The animals are placed under the care of individual farmers. Another method of distribution followed is for the State Government to supply the bulls free of charge and to entrust the village Panchayats with their maintenance. Both the methods have been found in the survey. It has also been noticed that in some blocks the pedigree animals have been obtained locally and some bulls having been imported from outside.

The progress achieved in respect of improvement of breeds through the supply of pedigree animals can not be generalised as there were wide variations from block to block. The villagers were asked about the number of servicings per year but such data could be available. However, it was known that as a result of pedigree bulls there was improvement in the breeds in the villages. As the data could not be available, no comments can be made about the servicing capacity of the bulls and other animals. In some blocks the villagers also told that sometimes there was no immediate supply of pedigree bulls. In most of the blocks this complaint was received that the bulls were not properly maintained either by village Panchayats or by village individuals, with the result that their capacity reduced. There have also been occasional reports about the utilisation of these bulls for purposes other than breeding.
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Regarding the villages already covered under
the programme of selecting bulls from existing units, the data could
be available in respect of seven blocks only and in these blocks on
an average 60 villages were covered under the above scheme in every
block.

Artificial Insemination Centres:

Out of the 12 blocks, two did not have any
artificial insemination (A.I.) centre at the time of survey in the
year 1965-66 and one block started a A.I. centre but it was defunct
at the time of survey. Out of 9 blocks in two A.I. centres were run
by the concerned departments of State government, other than blocks
and one was run by the Municipal Committee of the town. Only 3
centres out of these came into force in the year 1954 quite early
and other centres were started after the year 1959, quite late. At
the time of survey there was complete staff with adequate apparatus
in the centres. But an enquiry relating to A.I. centres from the
villagers revealed that unfortunately the villagers in the block have
not taken much advantage of this facility.

One will agree with the programme evaluation
organisation report that among the reasons for the delay in starting
the centres in the blocks the more important ones are "(i) poor
communication facilities which have tendered to discourage the
opening of A.I. centres, as the area that could be covered from a
centre would be below the capacity, (ii) lack of a felt need among
the villagers and (iii) the non-supply of the necessary equipment to
the block."1

In the survey it was noticed that the progress was better in older blocks than in newer ones. But in most of the blocks no development was reported in this field. The figures regarding the insemination and progeny by them were also collected but except in two blocks, no such figures could be available in other veterinary hospitals of the blocks. The available figures in two blocks revealed that the percentage of progeny was 39 which is quite low and unsatisfactory. It was distressing to note that most of the villagers did not know about artificial insemination. It shows that there has been inadequacy of the propaganda effort in relation to the resistance of the people. In addition to this one more important factor responsible for the slow progress in the above field has been the wakening of the people’s belief in the effectiveness of artificial insemination as a result of occasional failure of impregnation through the method. Even then from the response of the villagers it may be added that the popularity of artificial insemination is on the increase and the cultivators are willing to take it.

Castration:

It has been an important activity of the animal husbandry department of the State government from the very beginning. But after the introduction of the community development programme the blocks veterinary departments have taken over it. Even it was noticed that in some blocks the departmental officers are themselves responsible for this activity. It has also been seen that there was no uniformity relating to the castration of bulls in all the blocks. In some blocks village level workers have been trained to conduct this
activity and they do it but simultaneously castration is also conducted in the veterinary hospitals of the blocks head-quarters. While in some blocks the veterinary dispensary is the only place where this operation can be conducted.

The figures of castration were collected in all the blocks for five years from 1961-62 to 1965-66. It may be at the outset kept in mind that the figures can not be completely relied on because the number of castration in the villages did not tally actually with the quarterly or yearly statistics compiled by the block officers. These figures seemed to be much exaggerated. For on block the figures were not available. During the above period in the eleven blocks, 55,500 bulls were castrated. Thus on an average 5045 bulls were castrated in every block for which yearly number comes to 1009 bulls. In the blocks the number ranged from 2500 to 8200, the highest being in Kareli block. The coverage of castrated bulls could not be worked out in the blocks as the total number of animals was not known.

An enquiry from the villagers into the block method of castration revealed that they have no full confidence in it. They seem to think that the old method of castration is easier and more effective. Thus general apathy of the villagers have to be faced in this place of activity which has been the main factor retarding progress. However, in few blocks the villagers have taken to this method of castration sponsored by blocks and the V.L.Ws. replied optimistically in the expansion of this method in the rural areas.
Fodder Supply:

The increase in the fodder supply is quite essential for the proper development of animal husbandry because in its absence the upgrading of breeds will fail to show any significant results. In the survey an attempt was made to record the progress in the programme of fodder cultivation and its development in the blocks. It was also asked whether there was any shortage of fodder in the block area. From the replies received it was known that in seven blocks there was shortage of fodder particularly at the time of survey in year 1965-66. It may be added here that due to shortage of rains in the above year, fodder problem was a common feature in almost all the blocks. Five blocks reported no shortage of fodder in their area but on the other hand fodder was exported to other places from these blocks areas so consequently there was sometimes shortage in these areas too.

As regards the programme for increasing fodder supply in the blocks, almost in all the blocks the programme has been undertaken to increase the acreage under fodder crops. The subsidy has been given to cultivators for fodder seeds and measures have been adopted to give them proper knowledge of growing it through extension methods. Berseem is the most important fodder crop which has been propagated among the farmers. In all the blocks the programme of fodder cultivation has been undertaken and on an average 50 acres of land has been brought under it in every block. In order to develop the fodder cultivation the blocks have adopted the measures of setting up of targets of acreage to be brought under fodder cultivation within specified period, the supply of improved varieties
of fodder seed and the introduction of new crops.

As regards the villagers in the area of survey, they are very particular in keeping the supply of fodder to last for the whole year. For this purpose they reserve some land to produce the grass which may be barren or least fertile to grow the food crops. But the cultivators reported at the time of survey that since last two or three years they have been facing acute problem of fodder supply specially in summer due to insufficient rains.

In order to develop animal husbandry some other steps have also been taken in the villages which include construction of silage pits, improved mangers, cattle sheds and water troughs. As regards silage pits, figures for 10 blocks were available where there were 124 silage pits on an average in every block. In the villages surveyed, only in two there were silage pits which were used to retain the moisture and the contents of the green grass. Most of the villagers who were interviewed did not know about silage pits. In case of improved mangers the figures of the annual reports of the blocks stated that during the period for five years on an average 363 mangers were constructed and repaired. In two blocks the figures relating to improved mangers could not be available while in two no improvement was made in this direction. In the villages surveyed, only few improved mangers were seen and some villagers had got the prize in the competition of mangers. A subsidy ranging to 50% was given for the construction of mangers.

The water troughs were also constructed on some public places and by individual farmers. On the subsidy basis these troughs were constructed which were 35 on an average during the period of five years in every block. Only in very few villages these
troughs were seen. The conclusion was drawn that according to statistics of reports, the progress was not visible in the villages.

**Disease Control and Veterinary Aid:**

For the proper development of livestock, effective veterinary measures are quite essential. The maintenance of the livestock health requires adequate and easily accessible provisions of such type of measures and willingness of the people to avail them. For providing veterinary aid, veterinary hospitals, dispensaries and first aid centres have been established.

In the blocks surveyed there were veterinary hospitals in all the blocks out of which three belonged to departments and one was run by Municipal Committee and the other by Janpad Sabha though veterinary extension officers were in charge of them. There were 22 outlying dispensaries and 20 first aid centres in all the blocks. In some blocks the V.L.Ws. have been trained and provided with first aid boxes or medicine chests but lack of medicine was reported with them though they undertook the castration operation.

In the field of disease control inoculation and vaccinations have been taken on the mass scale and large number of cases have been treated in the hospitals and dispensaries. The data of vaccination and inoculation were recorded for five years from 1961-62 to 1965-66. On average 30,670 animals were vaccinated and inoculated during the above period in every block for which the annual figure comes to 61.34 only.

The common diseases of animals prevailing in
the area were also recorded which did not show any variation. The diseases are anthrax, haemorrhagic septicemia, foot and mouth disease, rinder pest, B.Q., and mastitis. To control these diseases measures have been adopted through vaccination and inoculation and treating the cattle in the hospitals and dispensaries.

The villagers reported that there was intensive vaccination and inoculation programme and they had taken to it and as a result if it, many diseases of animals were checked. But the people were not interested in taking to their animals to the dispensaries for the treatment except only in serious cases because in some blocks institutions were not conveniently and easily accessible to a large number of villages. Moreover, it may be also noted that in many villages, people did not believe much on the efficiency of the treatment at hospitals and they seemed to rely more upon having ordinary local treatment. Many cases were reported of even proper setting up and healing up of broken bones joints of animals with the aid of local medicines. Only sometimes the villagers called the veterinary doctors from the dispensaries and V.E.O.s. to attend their serious cases of animals which the people told were not always attended by the doctors. But it is a common knowledge among the villagers that there has been a visible improvement in the quality of livestock due to the facilities provided by the blocks. The conclusion has been drawn that the villagers have not taken the full advantage of the facilities provided by these veterinary institutions. However, in some blocks, the dispensaries need to be better equipped with instruments and medicines. One would agree with the conclusion drawn by the P.E.O. that better
supervision of the dispensaries and centres is another measure which calls for attention.

Other Forms Of Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Fisheries and Pigeries:

In the last few years poultry has gained much importance as a part of animal husbandry in the block. In all the blocks poultry keeping step taken for the development of poultry include supply of improved birds, distribution of hatching eggs and replacement of Deshi cock on exchange basis. There has been very good development of poultry in Sehora block as it comes under Applied Nutrition Programme.

There were on an average 33 back yard units in every block, highest number being in Sehora block i.e. 300 under A.N.P. One back yard unit consists of 10 hens and one cock. The usual method of distribution involves a subsidy ranging up to 50% of the cost. In addition to this quite a large number of eggs and improved chicks have been distributed in almost all the blocks. The figures of the distribution of hatching eggs were available for 10 blocks only where on an average 1770 hatching eggs have been distributed in every block during the period of five years from 1961-62 to 1965-66. In two blocks there was astonishing progress in poultry keeping i.e. in Sehora and Gtegaon block. In Sehora block under A.N.P. 300 back yard units have been supplied in three years in 22 villages of the block. Maximum five units have been supplied to one man and maximum 15 units in one village. Under this programme the whole subsidy has been given by UNICEF. For one unit Rs. 37.00 are given as subsidy. In return the persons provided
with subsidy for poultry, have to give 20% of the produced eggs between October to March to the village agency or Panchayat for three years to be distributed among the nursing mothers, pregnant ladies and pre-school going children. Ladies and children are provided with two eggs and one egg per week respectively. In the survey the figures of achievement in this block for A.N.P. could not be available but one village in this block was surveyed which came under A.N.P. and there was good progress in the poultry keeping. The Goteaon block does not come under A.N.P. but there the back yard units are next to Sehora block, total being 200. In addition to this, the number of improved birds including female birds and chicks distributed there is highest. In one village surveyed under this block, poultry development has been much popularised and one person has earned quite a lot due to the poultry. In most of the blocks, this poultry keeping was started and developed, not in the beginning at the time of the opening of the blocks but quite late. It was also known that in some blocks this programme has been stopped. It may also be added here that the steps taken for the popularisation of poultry keeping among villagers do not fall into any uniform pattern in different blocks.

It has been noticed that except in few blocks the programme of poultry keeping has not achieved high level of success in spite of intensive propaganda and publicity among the villagers. Caste factor has been most important factor inhibiting the development in poultry. In the villages it was reported that the people in the lower range of the ladder took to the poultry. But at the same time it may be heartening to note that the V.E.O.
in Pathariya block reported that even the Brahmins had taken to the programme of poultry keeping. This was not the case in other blocks. Those who were having birds supplied by the blocks also reported that sometimes these birds were taken free of charge whenever any officer came to the village just to please him. It was a discouraging factor. The P.E.O. has rightly remarked in its survey report that the most important difficulty that the programme seems to have run into, in many areas, is the heavy casualty among the birds soon after their distribution. This heavy casualty has been caused by a number of diseases and epidemics, lack of suitable sheds and unscientific care and maintenance. In the area surveyed, fowl-pox and Randikhet were the diseases prevailing in poultry. This programme also seemed not properly developed in the villages where the majority of the people are vegetarian and it was the case in majority of the villages surveyed, which limited the scope for extension of poultry keeping.

Fishery:

Only in 8 blocks out of 12, steps have been taken to develop fisheries but no specific progress was visible in the area. Generally V.E.O. is incharge of this fishery programme in the block but in Sehora block there were separate officers for fishery and poultry at the time of survey.

In some blocks the programme was developed in the beginning but was neglected later on. The steps to popularise this programme included supply of fish spawn and fingerlings to individual villager either free or on subsidy basis. Only in 5
villages out of total 24 surveyed, this programme has been introduced but the interest seemed to be lacking among the villagers. In Sehora block which comes under A.N.7., 200 acres of water area in 35 villages has been brought under the programme of fisheries and the villagers have been supplied fish spawns and fingerlings free of cost. The programme is run under the supervision of village Panchayats and 90% of the produce is given to village panchayat which brings earning and 20% of the produce is distributed free to the vulnerable group i.e. children and pregnant ladies. Due to the changes of stages of the blocks the pace of development of this programme has slowed down. It may be concluded that the general picture of the state of affairs in this field is not satisfactory.

Regarding the development of piggery, its condition is even worse as no achievement was visible in any block. Only in one block the improved pigs were distributed for the purpose of upgrading. The piggery is related and confined to low class of people in the villages and people of such class also do not take any interest in its development. The result has been that no noticeable improvement in the quality of animals or their performance has yet been recorded.

As regards dairying no systematic and well organised dairy was found in the block area and in villages. Only small private dairies were run by the individual milkmen.