THE ROLE OF POULTRY INDUSTRY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LATUR, NANDED & OSMANABAD DISTRICT (M.S.)

ABSTRACT

Since the olden times, India has been an agricultural country making it the largest source of employment and earnings for the majority of the population. Livestock forms a significant component of the agricultural enterprises. India is ranked as the third largest egg and fifth largest poultry meat producer and its capability in employment generation and enhancing rural incomes is well known. Livestock supports incomes and generates rural employment, especially for the landless, small and marginal farmers and women. Millions of people are engaged in poultry sector, apart from numerous small poultry keepers in rural and tribal areas for the country.

Three districts Latur, Nanded and Osmanabad situated on the border of Karnataka and Telangana (Andhra Pradesh) have been chosen in this study and structural characteristics of the poultry farms, covers marketing practices of poultry farms, analyses the cost and profitability and examines the role of poultry industry in the economic development of the study area. Data has been collected through a specially designed interview schedule with care taken to cover the socio-economic, structural characteristics and commercial aspects.

Poultry industry in study area are small scale due to its proximity to big production centre like Hyderabad and large distance from big market like Mumbai. Poultry farmers practice poultry farming as a supplementary business. Socio-economic and structural characteristics conditions of the poultry farmers from Latur district are better than those from Nanded and Osmanabad district. The total cost of production for Nanded district is more than the same for Osmanabad and Latur. Financial position of the poultry farms from Latur is better than those from Nanded and Osmanabad. The Poultry farms from Latur are more profitable than those from Osmanabad and Nanded. This business has helped poultry farmers from this region by stabilizing their financial conditions and increasing their income, resulting in the improvement of their living standards. The poultry industry has played an important role in the economic development of the people from rural areas.