

Agriculture

Production and growth

Monsoon – 2004

As per the long-range forecast for the 2004 south-west monsoon rainfall issued by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in April and updated in June, the rainfall for the country as a whole was expected to be near normal and quantitatively 100 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA) with an error of ± 4 per cent. The season ended with the area-weighted rainfall for the country as a whole at 87 per cent of the LPA (Table 8.1). This large deficiency was mainly due to suppressed rainfall activity (81 per cent of the LPA) during July 2004 against the expectation of 98 per cent of the LPA. However, rainfall over the country as a whole during June and August was near normal. Over the 4 broad homogenous regions of India, rainfall was expected to be 103 per cent of its LPA over

north-west India, 103 per cent of LPA over central India, 96 per cent of LPA over north-east India and 97 per cent of LPA over the southern peninsula with an error of ± 8 per cent. The actual rainfall over these 4 regions was deficient at 78 per cent, 89 per cent, 94 per cent and 85 per cent of the LPA, respectively.

8.2 On the sub-divisional basis, none of the meteorological subdivisions experienced severe drought conditions (seasonal rainfall deficiency exceeding 50 per cent) at the end of the season. However, Himachal Pradesh, West Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, West Rajasthan, Vidarbha and Telangana experienced moderate drought conditions (seasonal rainfall deficiency between 25 and 50 per cent). Out of 524 meteorological districts, 133 districts (25 per cent) experienced moderate drought conditions and 36 districts (7 per cent) experienced severe drought conditions at the end of the season.

**Table 8.1 : Monsoon performance—1997 to 2004
(June – September)**

Year	Number of meteorological sub-divisions			Percentage of districts with normal / excess rainfall	Percentage of long period average rainfall for the country as a whole
	Normal/ excess	Deficient / scanty	Total		
1997	32	3	35	81	102
1998	33	2	35	83	105
1999	28	7	35	67	96
2000	28	7	35	65	92
2001	29	6	35	68	91
2002	15	21	36	37	81
2003	31	5	36	76	105
2004	23	13	36	57	87

Source: India Meteorological Department.