

Agriculture

As per information received from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the South West Monsoon (June-September) arrived over Kerala on May 26, 2006, a week earlier than normal. The monsoon covered the entire country by July 24, 2006, with a delay of nine days. The area-weighted rainfall from June 1 to September 30, 2006 for the country was 99 per cent of long-period average (LPA) against a forecast of 93 per cent of LPA made by the IMD. The 2006 monsoon rainfall was not evenly distributed over time and space. The uneven distribution of the rainfall (June–September, 2006) adversely affected North-East India (deficiency of 17 per cent), Northwest India (deficiency of 6 per cent) and South Peninsula (deficiency of 5 per cent). Rainfall in Central India was in excess by 16

per cent. Out of the 36 meteorological sub-divisions in the country, monsoon rainfall was normal in 20, excess in 6, and deficient in the remaining 10 sub-divisions (Table 8.1).

8.2 At the end of the monsoon season, five meteorological sub-divisions namely Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana experienced moderate drought conditions (seasonal rainfall deficiency of 26 per cent to 50 per cent). Out of 533 total meteorological districts that the 36 meteorological sub-divisions have, 130 districts experienced moderate drought and 30 districts experienced severe drought conditions, while rainfall departure in the rest of 373 meteorological districts was within normal.

**Table 8.1 : Monsoon Performance — 1998 to 2006
(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		
1999	25	3	7	67	95
2000	23	5	7	65	92
2001	29	1	5	67	92
2002	14	1	21	39	81
2003	26	7	3	77	105
2004	23	0	13	56	86
2005	23	9	4	72	99
2006	20	6	10	60	99

Excess : +20 per cent or more of LPA; Normal: +19 per cent to –19 per cent of LPA;
Deficient : -20 per cent to –59 per cent of LPA; Scanty: -60 per cent to –99 per cent of LPA.
Source : India Meteorological Department.