

the Government has recently accorded greater administrative and financial autonomy to the Port Trust Board. These measures have helped the Mormugao Port Trust in streamlining its functioning and improving the quality of its management and standard of port services.

#### **Rainfall**

3448. SHRI S. GANGADHAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the rainfall recorded during June 1st to September 30, 1998; and

(b) its impact on agriculture sector ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) For the country as a whole, the total rainfall during the summer monsoon season was 957.6 mm as against the normal rainfall of 905.0 mm thus making it to be 106% of its Long Period Average Value.

(b) The production of Kharif foodgrains in the current year is estimated to be 101.03 million tonnes which is marginally lower than last year's production. However, with the chances of better Rabi crops on account of favourable weather conditions, better reservoir situation, good pace of sowings and adequate availability of inputs, the prospects for overall food production during 1998-99 are brighter. The crop prospects for sugarcane and oilseeds are also better. However, the production of coarse grains is expected to be somewhat lower than the last year.

#### **Setting up of Space Gallery**

3449. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Space Gallery at the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost for the same; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The National Council of Science Museum has a proposal to set up a space Gallery titled "Space-Emerging Technology in the Service of Mankind" in the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore. The Gallery will cover an area of 700 Sq. mts. and will include sections like Flight Mechanics, Launching of a Space Vehicle, Mission Control, Rockets & Satellites, Satellite application, Indian Space Programme and

Space Theatre etc. The Project is likely to be completed by 31.3.1999 at an approximate cost of Rs. 30-35 lakhs.

#### **Central Assistance to Tanneries in Chennai**

3450. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to extend financial assistance to the Tanneries in Tamil Nadu for purification of effluent discharge emanating from the factory;

(b) if so, whether the effluent discharge of the Tanneries at Ranipet and nearby is diverted;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to erect purification centres for Tanneries;

(d) whether the Government are also considering to constitute a Board as is being done in Delhi and Bombay; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Financial assistance is given to the small scale industrial units including tanneries in Tamil Nadu for the construction of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) under the World Bank aided Industrial Pollution Control Project for the treatment of effluent discharged from the factories.

(d) and (e) The Government has constituted the Loss of Ecology (Prevention & Payments of Compensation) Authority for the State of Tamil Nadu under the Chairmanship of Justice P. Bhaskaran which has, inter alia, functions "to close the tanneries permanently or direct their relocation, which have not provided adequate treatment facilities and not having valid certificate from the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board".

#### **Anta Gas Thermal Power Station**

3451. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Anta Stage-II gas based thermal power station of National Thermal Power Corporation is likely to get gas allocations and the Union Government's sanction;

(b) whether the gas allocation for the existing Anta GTPS is adequate to operate it as a base load station as per policy of Department of Power; and

(c) if not, the time by which additional allocation of gas is likely to be made for stage-I and also for stage-II ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) National Thermal Power Corporation