

The northeast monsoon season during October to December is the chief rainy season for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. During November, three large-scale weather systems affected Tamil Nadu and Puducherry causing extensive rainfall activity over the region.

The Earth System Science Organization-IMD has predicted above normal rainfall – in excess of 111% of the long period average - in its forecast outlook for the 2015 Northeast Monsoon Season (October to December) rainfall over the South Peninsula.

Floods occur due to the hydrological response of heavy rainfall. Its manifestation needs to be assessed by the local authorities. In this case, 3 days advance warnings were issued for placing emergency planning response action by the local authorities.

The non-climatic reasons for flooding in cities and industries located in high-risk locations, particularly coastal and riverine areas include lack of proper urban planning, demographic pressures, improper sewage disposal and drainage systems, encroachment of land, etc. As per some reports, the rains and excess water released from the dam at Chembarambakkam resulted in the flooding of Adyar, its banks and inundated its floodplain.

Improving operational efficiency of Major Ports

*230. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to make amendments in the Major Port Trusts Act to change the management structure of major ports to help them function more efficiently and independently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to augment capacity and improve the operational efficiency of major ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is examining proposals to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 with a view to modernize the institutional structure of the major ports and to secure greater operational freedom for the ports, in tune with present day requirements.

(c) In order to augment capacity and improve operational efficiency the Government has taken the following steps namely:-

(i) Bidding documents like Request for Qualification (RFQ), Request for

Proposal (RFP) and Model Concession Agreement (MCA) have been standardized and adopted.

- (ii) The Government of India has permitted 100% foreign direct investment in the major ports in activities such as construction and maintenance of ports and harbours.
- (iii) 100% income tax exemption is available for a period of 10 years.
- (iv) The Government of India constituted Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and Ministry of Finance to appraise the proposals under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.
- (v) The Tariff setting mechanism has also been modified with tariffs being set upfront by the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) before the projects are bid out on a revenue sharing basis.
- (vi) Further in order to expedite award of PPP projects, the Ministry has recently taken the following steps/measures:—
 - a. Enhancement of delegation of financial powers
 - b. Revised security guidelines for both dredging and port projects.
 - c. Revised land policy guidelines on land management.
 - d. Implement a package of measures as recommended by consultants to improve overall port performance, berth productivity and yard throughputs resulting in improved productivity.

Toilets for BPL families in Gujarat

*231. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently announced a time-bound programme for construction of toilets for all BPL families in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all the BPL families in Gujarat have been provided toilets under the programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when such families in the State would be provided toilets?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) Yes, Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin){SBM(G)} has been