CHAPTER III

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Kanyakumari District is a tiny district, named after the Goddess Kanyakumari. The area under the research study is the southern most district in the state of Tamil Nadu with an area of 1684.45 sq.kms\(^1\). Once it was known as the “Granary of Travancore”. It was merged with the Tamil Nadu on 1\(^{st}\) November 1956\(^2\). The Kanyakumari District consists of those parts locally known as Nanjil Nadu and Idai Nadu. It is composed of 4 taluks and 9 blocks. This tiny strip of land is adorned with lush green vegetation everywhere during favourable climatic and weather conditions, with a backdrop of bluish Western Gates at the northern border and a silver border line on the 3 sides by the Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. The demography presents, a population of 16,00,349 with a density of 945 per Sq. Km (2001 Census). It is bounded between 77\(^{0}\) 05' and 77\(^{0}\) 36' of the eastern longitude and 8\(^{0}\) 03" and 8\(^{0}\) 35' of the northern latitude. Out of the total geographical area of 1,68,440 hectare the total cropped is 8,07,49 hectare (48.3 per cent) under paddy it is 32,004 hectare\(^3\).

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\(^1\) Manorama Year Book 2001, p.369
\(^2\) National Informatics Centre, Collectorate of Kanyakumari District, Nagercoil.
\(^3\) District Statistical Hand Book, Kanyakumari, 1999-2000
Rainfall and Climate:

The district is normally getting South - West (June-September) and North - East (October-December) monsoon rains. The annual average rainfall of the district is 1443 mms. But the actual rainfall of the district in 1998-99 was 1200mm. The district experienced a tropical climate with moderate changes. Normally temperature is the maximum reaching more than 33°C in April and May. Temperature is the lowest in December touching 19°C and October to February are also cooler (22.1°C) with a high level of relative humidity.

Agriculture:

Agricultural Sector occupies a predominant position in the economy of Kanyakumari district. Agriculture is the main occupation of this district and it contributes about 51 per cent of the total population. If the total geographical area of the district, the net area sown is 80749.9 hectares constituting 48.3 per cent of the total area in 1998-99. The total area under paddy cultivation on both two seasons is 32,004 hectares. Paddy, black gram, betal nuts, cardamom, ginger, pepper, tamarind, palmyrah, coconut, rubber, tea, banana and some of the food crops

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4Returns Office of the Assistant Director of Statistics, Nagercoil, p.369
cultivated in district\textsuperscript{6}. Coir making, and bee-keeping are important occupations of this district.

\textbf{Forests:}

Nearly 30 per cent of the land area in the district is classified as forests\textsuperscript{7}. The forests have about 600 species of larger timber trees and 3500 other plants of great economic value. Among timber, the most important are teak, rose wood, wild jack, manjahkadambu, Ventakthemba, Vengai, Pillai marudu and unnan. They are used for making articles of furniture in house constructions and for producing agricultural implements. There are also soft wood species like illuvu, albizza and perumaram. They are used for making boats, match sticks and veneers for soft-wood based industries. Plantations of cardamom and tea are seen on the higher elevation white pepper, ginger and turmeric flourish in the lower elevation. A large variety of forest products like lanes, reeds, lemongross, bamboo of trees and medicinal plants are also found in this district\textsuperscript{8}.

\textsuperscript{6} Commissioner Department of Statistics, Madras.
\textsuperscript{7} Department of Statistics, Madras.
\textsuperscript{8} District Plan for Industrial Development. 1998.
Cropping Pattern:

Paddy, blackgram, coconut, rubber, tea, coffee, banana etc., are the major crops grown in this district. The table 3.1 shows that the cropping pattern of the Kanyakumari district in 1998-99.

**TABLE 3.1**

CROPPING PATTERN OF KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crops</th>
<th>Area in hectares</th>
<th>Percentage to the total area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Paddy</td>
<td>32004</td>
<td>35.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Black gram</td>
<td>2796</td>
<td>3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Karamani</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Betal nuts</td>
<td>722</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cardamom</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Pepper</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Tamarind</td>
<td>1713</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Cloves</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Palmyrah</td>
<td>1859</td>
<td>2.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Coconut</td>
<td>21517</td>
<td>23.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Coffee</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Tea</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Betal wines</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Tobacco items</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Rubber</td>
<td>18068</td>
<td>20.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Flowers</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Mulbery</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Banana</td>
<td>4670</td>
<td>5.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Mango</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>1.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Jack</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Cashewnut</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Others</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>89726</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Irrigation:

TABLE 3.2

IRRIGATION SOURCES OF IRRIGATION IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Taluk</th>
<th>Government Canals</th>
<th>Reservoirs</th>
<th>With Ayacut 100 acres and more</th>
<th>With Ayacut less than 100 acres</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage of total in each taluk.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Vilavancode</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Kalkulam</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1216</td>
<td>1220</td>
<td>46.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Agasteswaran</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Thovalai</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>District total</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2592</td>
<td>2633</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Taluk Profile of Irrigation Statistics, Published by the Department of Statistics, Government of Tamil Nadu, 1998-99.

As shown in Table 3.2, there is excessive dependence on tank for the purpose of irrigation. The tanks are not equally distributed among the taluks. As much as 81.4 per cent of the tanks are found concentrate in the Kalkulam and Vilavankode and the rest 18.6 per cent of the tanks are found distributed in Thovalai and Agastheeswaram.

Wells:

In Kanyakumari district there are 2 major categories of wells. They are the Government wells and private wells. They are further divided into masonry and non-masonry wells and wells used for irrigation purposes and domestic purposes. A taluk wise distribution of well is given in Table 3.3.
### TABLE 3.3

**TYPES OF WELLS IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluk</th>
<th>Tube Wells</th>
<th>Govt. masonry</th>
<th>Govt. non-masonry</th>
<th>Govt. wells (Govt)</th>
<th>Private masonry</th>
<th>Private non-masonry</th>
<th>Total private-masonry</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
<th>Percentage of Irrigation</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>Non domestic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vilavancode</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4766</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalkulam</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>4953</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thovalai</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District total</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>12511</td>
<td>567</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Chennai.
Land Utilisations:

The available land has been put to the maximum use in the district. Table 3.4 provides information regarding land utilization in this district in the year 1998-99. The percentage of area under cultivable waste land under trees, current fallows, other fallows and barren and uncultivable land in this district formed only 1.7 per cent which means that all the available lands are put to use in the district. The net area sown in the district is 48.3 per cent which is slightly higher than the forests (32.4 per cent). The population pressure and growth of urbanization has increased the size of land put to non-agricultural uses that is, 15 per cent. The small proportion of the area under barren and uncultivable land is 2 per cent reflects the fact that even the lower ranges of the hill tracts, which are suitable for grazing are put to other productive uses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of utilization</th>
<th>Area in hectares</th>
<th>Percentage to the total area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest</td>
<td>54167.6</td>
<td>32.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Barren and uncultivable</td>
<td>3343.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Land put to non-agricultural uses</td>
<td>25077.6</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Cultivable waste</td>
<td>167.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Permanent pastures and other grazing lands</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Land under trees</td>
<td>501.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Current fallows</td>
<td>1003.1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Other fallows</td>
<td>1170.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Net area sown</td>
<td>80749.9</td>
<td>48.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>166181.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Chennai.
Soil:

The general classification of soil in Kanyakumari district is as follows.

(1) Coastal soil (2) Red soil (3) Brown soil and (4) Alluvial soil. The mixed soil type of red and alluvial soil also occurs in Kanyakumari district. The soils are mostly sandy and sandy loams in nature. Clay mixed loamy soil is found in old ayacuts and red loamy soil in new ayacuts and red channel fed garden areas in dry places. When the central belt has sandy soil, normal pH ranges from 6.2 to 7 per cent and Nitrogen (N2) contents is low. The phosphorous content is medium and so is the case with potassium.

The Soil Survey and Land Use Organisation, Tirunelveli, conducted a reconnaissance Soil Survey in 1984-85 and it has found and fixed the following soil families in Kanyakumari District.
### TABLE 3.5

**SOIL SURVEY WITH TRADITIONAL CROP AND AREA PATTERNS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Area in Hectares</th>
<th>Suitable Crops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Coarse loamy, Lithic Ustorthents</td>
<td>2,446</td>
<td>Paddy and banana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fine loamy, Lithic Troporthents</td>
<td>1,847</td>
<td>Banana, rubber and tapioca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Typic Tropopsamments</td>
<td>1,171</td>
<td>Coconut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Coarse loamy, Fluventic Dystropepts</td>
<td>2,731</td>
<td>Coconut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fine loamy, Typic Dystropepts</td>
<td>31,774</td>
<td>Paddy and tapioca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Coarse loamy, Fluventic Eutropepts</td>
<td>4,222</td>
<td>Paddy, banana and ground nut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Loamy, Typic Eutropepts</td>
<td>4,851</td>
<td>Rubber and Cole Crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fine loamy, Udic Rhodudalfs</td>
<td>8,894</td>
<td>Cashew, Mango and tapioca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Fine loamy, Udic Haplustaffs</td>
<td>1,658</td>
<td>Paddy, pulses and banana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Coarse loamy, Aquic Tropudalfs</td>
<td>9,224</td>
<td>Paddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Fine loamy, Typic Tropudalfs</td>
<td>23,588</td>
<td>Paddy and pulses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Typic Udipsamments</td>
<td>2,342</td>
<td>Coconut and palmyrah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Fine loamy, acquic Haplustalfs</td>
<td>7,896</td>
<td>Paddy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Adapted from Gazetteer of India, Tamil Nadu State, Kanyakumari District, 1995, p.p. 194-197.
TABLE 3.6

PRODUCTIVITY OF PRINCIPAL CROPS:

AVERAGE YIELD OF PRINCIPAL CROPS IN KANYA KUMARI DISTRICT
IN 1998-99

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Crops</th>
<th>Yield Kgs/hectares</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paddy</td>
<td>4774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Black gram</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ginger</td>
<td>28310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tamarind</td>
<td>1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tapioca</td>
<td>20386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Banana</td>
<td>40468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mango</td>
<td>2267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cashew nut</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>13516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>11934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pine apple</td>
<td>42206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Grapes</td>
<td>19749</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


To have an idea of the performance of the agricultural economy of Kanyakumari district crop-wise average yield details have been presented in Table 3.6. Banana crop stands first in the average yield of principal crops in this district.
### TABLE 3.7

**TOTAL POPULATION IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Types of Population</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Male population</td>
<td>8,29,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Female population</td>
<td>8,40,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>16,69,763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Labour Force in Kanyakumari District:**

### TABLE 3.8

**MAIN WORKERS IN KANYA KUMARI DISTRICT IN 1998-99**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Type of workers</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Total workers</td>
<td>4,64,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Male workers</td>
<td>3,95,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Female workers</td>
<td>69,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rural workers</td>
<td>3,87,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Urban workers</td>
<td>76,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cultivators</td>
<td>61,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Agricultural workers</td>
<td>1,77,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Household industries</td>
<td>13,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Other workers</td>
<td>2,35,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Marginal workers</td>
<td>24,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Non workers</td>
<td>11,12,218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.8 shows that nearly half of the workers derived employment from agriculture. Among the workers, women constitute only 10 per cent and among them are one-fourth are working as agricultural labourers. Next to agriculture, government has provided employment opportunities to 64,443 people. Further 50,464 people are working in manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairing industries. Transport, Commerce, Storage and Communication also play an important role by providing employment opportunities to the people; 55,000 people are working in these sectors.

Allied agriculture, livestock, forestry etc., also provide employment opportunities to 33,996 people. The most important fact revealed by the above table is that female workers are only 17.09 per cent of the total. Of these 19,000 i.e., about 22 per cent have work for less than six months. It clearly proves that in Kanyakumari district work opportunities for women are very limited.

Livestock and Poultry Population

Kanyakumari district has a rich livestock population consisting of cattles, sheep, buffaloes, goats, poultry and others. Table 3.8 reveals the livestock and poultry population of Kanyakumari district during 1999-2000.
TABLE 3.9
LIVESTOCK POPULATION IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT
IN 1999-2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Livestock</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage to the total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>116681</td>
<td>53.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>2649</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>60206</td>
<td>27.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.00047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>7477</td>
<td>3.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dan keys</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Domestic dogs</td>
<td>31209</td>
<td>14.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>218419</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


INDUSTRIAL STATUS OF THE DISTRICT

Medium Scale Industries in Kanyakumari:

As per the current definitions, there is no large scale industry in Kanyakumari district. There are only five medium scale industries functioning in this district. They are Borax Morarji Ltd., Shenbagaramanputhoor, Nagammal Mills Ltd., Nagercoil., Kanyakumari District Spinning Mills Ltd., Aralvoimozhy Indian Rare Earth Ltd., Manavalakuruchi, and Vasantham Monofilament Pvt., Ltd Tahampathukonam. The investment in the industrial sector, and their production capacity and their employment potential could be stated in the Table 3.10.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Investment (in lakhs of Rupees)</th>
<th>Line of Activity</th>
<th>Production Capacity</th>
<th>Number of Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Borax Moraji Ltd. 2-1 A-3 &amp; 4 Nedumangadu Road, Shenbagaramanputhoor</td>
<td>118.08 516.00 634.08</td>
<td>Treated &amp; Seasoned rubber wood and wood products</td>
<td>1143.7</td>
<td>3008.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vasantham Monofilament Pvt. Ltd. Thampathu Konam, A.N. Kudy</td>
<td>22.51 315.00 337.51</td>
<td>Nylon Mono filament Yarn for fishnet</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nagammal Mills Ltd., Vettornimadam, Nagercoil – 3</td>
<td>43.82 482.04 525.86</td>
<td>Cotton Yarn</td>
<td>280.00</td>
<td>457.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kanyakumari District Spinning Mills Ltd. Aravoorimozhy</td>
<td>47.02 607.10 654.12</td>
<td>Cotton yarn in hank and cone form</td>
<td>15.42</td>
<td>1711.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Indian Rare Earth Ltd., Manavalakurichy (1911)</td>
<td>595.00 1378.00 1973.00</td>
<td>Illmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Monozite, Carnet, Zirconium Oxide, Zirconium Oxy chloride</td>
<td>8.28</td>
<td>3154.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Industrial Centre, Nagercoil
Small Scale industries in Kanyakumari district:

As per the present Government norms, industries which have investment upto Rs.300 lakhs in Plant and Machinery are classified as small scale industries. Among the total industries only 60 per cent are functioning as per the estimate of the District Industries Centre (DIC).

Table 3.11 reveals that the Hosiery and Garments making unit ranks first in terms of numbers than the food products that ranks in the second place. Food products offer maximum employment potential.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Products</th>
<th>Digital Code</th>
<th>Number of SSI Units Registered</th>
<th>Land and Building (in lakhs of Rs.)</th>
<th>Plant and Machinery (in lakhs of Rs.)</th>
<th>Number of Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Food Products</td>
<td>20,21</td>
<td>1022</td>
<td>2168.87</td>
<td>4990.1</td>
<td>48590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Beverage, Tobacco &amp; Tobacco Product</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>134.65</td>
<td>40.50</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cotton Textiles</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31.36</td>
<td>27.29</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wool, Silk &amp; Synthetic Fibre Textiles</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jute Hemp &amp; Mesta Textiles</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hosiery &amp; Garments</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2279</td>
<td>1040.87</td>
<td>844.46</td>
<td>8858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wood Products &amp; printing</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>504.550</td>
<td>671.70</td>
<td>3936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Paper Products &amp; Printing</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>236.57</td>
<td>257.45</td>
<td>1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Leather Products</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>112.96</td>
<td>115.01</td>
<td>981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rubber &amp; Plastic products</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>1094.90</td>
<td>737.64</td>
<td>2454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chemical Products</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>231.40</td>
<td>49.93</td>
<td>2647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Non Metallic Mineral</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>370.42</td>
<td>795.01</td>
<td>4864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Basic Metal Industries</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>31114.90</td>
<td>4.90</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Metal products</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>309.50</td>
<td>491.93</td>
<td>2647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Machinery &amp; Parts (except electrical)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>127.84</td>
<td>154.61</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Elec. Machinery &amp; Apparatus</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>132.87</td>
<td>155.43</td>
<td>1396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Transport Equipment’s &amp; Parts</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>41.44</td>
<td>54.89</td>
<td>1228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Misc.Mfg.Instruments</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>248.42</td>
<td>211.45</td>
<td>1058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Storage &amp; Ware House</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Business services</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>47.70</td>
<td>20.58</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Medical Health Service</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7.67</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Personal Service</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>212.40</td>
<td>124.40</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Repair &amp; Service</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>290.24</td>
<td>370.50</td>
<td>2236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Nylon Fishnet</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>465.00</td>
<td>565.00</td>
<td>350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19.92</td>
<td>10.73</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>8488</td>
<td>7311.34</td>
<td>7879.63</td>
<td>86921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Industries Centre, Nagercoil.
### Table 3.12

**AGRO – BASED INDUSTRIES (1998)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hulling of Paddy</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pickles</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wet Grinding</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chops</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cashew</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Flour Mill</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Coconut Oil Mill</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Fruit &amp; Jam</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Aval Mill</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Coconut fibre products</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1125</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Industries Centre, Nagercoil.

**Agro-based Industries:**

Table 3.12 indicates that in addition to the above small scale industries some agro-based industries are also functioning in this District. They are coconut fibre products, Rubber based industries, hulling of Paddy, Cashew, flour mill and wet grinding. There is a great scope for rubber-based industries in Kanyakumari District. A rubber factory park has been promised to the people of this District several times in the past by different governments.
Cottage Industries:

There are many cottage industries which have registered rapid growth in this district. Some of the prominent and flourishing village industries are Aloe fibre, Palmyra and Coconut fibre products, Coir products, Tailoring, Palm leaf products, Coconut leaf knitting, Country bricks banana fiber brushes, apparets and readymade, Appalam-making as shown in Table 3.13.

### TABLE 3.13

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT (1999)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No.of workers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Appalam-making</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bee keeping</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bakery, confectionery and sweets</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Apparels and Readymades</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Aloe Fibre, Palmyrah and Coconut Fibre Products</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Blankets Weaving</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Leather goods making</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Coir products</td>
<td>1020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tailoring</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Palm leaf products</td>
<td>860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wood works</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Silk twisting</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Coconut leaf knitting</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Country Bricks</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Banana Fibre brushes</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4651</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DRDA, Nagercoil
Handicrafts Marketing:

Further this district has a number of industries of art and crafts. Among them mention could be made of stone carving, wood carving, temple jewellery, silver jewellery, wax models, musical instruments, koraimat, doll making, banana fiber, and seashell products. These details are represented in Table 3.14.
**TABLE 3.14**

HANDICRAFTS* MARKETING AND SERVICE (1998)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Units</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>No. of workers</th>
<th>Production Capacity (in Rs.)</th>
<th>Annual Production (in Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Hand Embroidery</td>
<td>1,603</td>
<td>1,92,30,000</td>
<td>2,50,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Lace</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>56,94,000</td>
<td>65,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Banana fibre</td>
<td>1,086</td>
<td>1,80,97,000</td>
<td>2,00,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Talipot fibre</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>11,50,000</td>
<td>15,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Palm leaf</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>30,34,000</td>
<td>40,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Reed mat Products</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>11,29,000</td>
<td>15,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Screw pine Products</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3,61,000</td>
<td>5,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Seashell Products</td>
<td>1,875</td>
<td>4,53,67,000</td>
<td>5,00,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Temple Jewellery</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>46,26,000</td>
<td>65,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Silver Jewellery</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>1,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wood Carving</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>36,40,000</td>
<td>40,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chemical Etching on wood</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Stone Carving</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>43,95,000</td>
<td>50,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Brass &amp; Metal</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>42,90,000</td>
<td>55,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cane &amp; Bamboo</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4,60,000</td>
<td>5,50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Coconut Shell</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3,20,000</td>
<td>4,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Greeting Cards</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Kora Grass Mats</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>1,59,99,000</td>
<td>2,00,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Papier Mashie</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5,26,000</td>
<td>6,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Terracotta</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>23,35,000</td>
<td>30,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sandle wood Carving</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,50,000</td>
<td>3,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lacquerware</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4,77,000</td>
<td>6,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sisal Fibre</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wax Models</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5,25,000</td>
<td>6,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jute based Handicrafts</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,40,000</td>
<td>2,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Musical Instruments</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6,67,000</td>
<td>8,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stuffed Dolls</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1,00,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>404</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,916</td>
<td>13,29,93,000</td>
<td>15,73,75,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* It may be noted that there are many unregistered units engaged in these activities and not included here.

Source: DRDA, Nagercoil.
Mineral Resources:

Kanyakumari District though poor in mineral resources occupies an important place in the mineral map of the world by the unique position it enjoys with regard to the production of mineral sands. The beach sand available at a place called Manavalakurichi is used to produce illuminite, zircon, Rutiles, garnet, manozite and brown illuminite, silliminite. The average annual production of these minerals is given in Table 3.15.

**TABLE 3.15**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Mineral</th>
<th>Quantity in Metric Tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Illuminite</td>
<td>6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Zircon</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rutiles</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Garnet</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Monozite</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Silliminite</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Brown Illuminite</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from various records

Infrastructural Services in Kanyakumari District:

In order to facilitate the agriculture in this district, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Paddy Research Station at Thiurpathisaram, a Horticulture Research Station at Pechipparai and a Veterinary and Animal Science University Centre, Nagercoil are functioning. One fruit farm and one state seed farm are present in this district. The total number of bank branches are 260, among 128 commercial banks and 114 primary Agricultural Co-operatives is given in Table. 3.16.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Research Centres</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TNAU Paddy Research Station, Thirupathisaram</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Horticulture Research Station, Pechipparai Veterinary and Animal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science University Centre, Nagercoil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Agricultural Extension Centres</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Main Centre (19)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub Centre (2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>State Feed Farm (Thirupathisaram)</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(60 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fruit Farm (Kanyakumari)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(32 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Seed Processing Units (mini)</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>(400 M.T. capacity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Nurseries</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coconut (Puthalam)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pineapple (Pechipparai)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pepper (Pechipparai)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Soil testing Lab.</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Mobile Soil Testing Lab.</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Fertilizer Testing Lab.</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Green Muscardine fungus prod. Lab</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Parasite Breeding Centre for coconut</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Farmers Training Centre (Thirupathisaram)</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Number of Bank Branches:</strong></td>
<td>260</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary Agricultural Co-operatives (114)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commercial Banks (128)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central Co-operative Bank (13)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land Development Bank (5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Regulated Market Yards</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Godowns</strong></td>
<td>153</td>
<td>(3,963 M.T. capacity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Government (30)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co-operative (120)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private (3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Fertilizer Sale Points</strong></td>
<td>528</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co-operative (142)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private (386)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Retail Outlet for Plant Protection Chemicals</strong></td>
<td>559</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agricultural Extension Centre (21)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co-operative (119)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private (350) and Agro Service Centre (69)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Records of the District Collectorate, Nagercoil
Unemployment in Kanyakumari District:

Table 3.17 reveals the number of Registered unemployed in this district. The number of female unemployed is greater than the male unemployed in the categories of matriculates, Higher Secondary, Arts graduates, Commerce, B.Ed., and Electrical. But in categories like moulder, Motor mechanic, Electric mechanic, Fitter, below matriculate the male registered unemployed is greater than the female unemployed. Table. 3.16.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Persons Registered as on 31-03-1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Below matriculates</td>
<td>8475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Matriculates</td>
<td>31549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Higher Secondary</td>
<td>26283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arts Graduates</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Science Graduates</td>
<td>1712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Commerce Graduates</td>
<td>815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>B. Ed.</td>
<td>1118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Diploma Holders in Engg.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i Civil</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ii Mechanical</td>
<td>1032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>iii Electrical</td>
<td>2416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>I.T.I. Holders</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a Draughtsman (civil)</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b Draughtsman (Mechanical)</td>
<td>718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c Weaving Instructors</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d Moulder</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e Electroplater</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f Carpenter</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>g Blacksmith</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>h Mechanist</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i Turner</td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>j Arc &amp; Gas Welder</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>k Motor Mechanic</td>
<td>3514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>l Motor Mechanic (Diesel)</td>
<td>914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m Air Conditioning and refrigeration</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n Electrician</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Electric Mechanic</td>
<td>1166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>p T.V. Mechanic</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>q Wireman</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>r Plumber</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>s Instrument Mechanic</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t Filter</td>
<td>4712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>u Welder (Gas)</td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>91491</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from various sources.
Marine Resources:

Kanyakumari district is an important coastal district with a coastal line of 76 km\(^1\). An area of about 1 lakh hectares of sea is reported to be suitable for marine fishing\(^1\). The annual catch of marine fish is estimated at 46.50 metric tonnes and inland fish 8.40 tonnes the important varieties being shark, prawns, levsten, sardines, kmackeres, oysters and river fish. Prawns, levstons and ossters earn foreign exchange for the country.

Salt:

Nearly 40000 metric tonnes of common salt is produced in this district. The entire quantity is consumed locally and no surplus is available for any industrial use.

Banana based industries:

Banana fibres, the locally available raw are extensively used in producing a wide range of decorative and utility articles like carry bags, dolls, table-mats, tea-coasters, pot hangers and ladies hand bags. Availability of abundant supply of raw material has also contributed to its phenomenal growth, and popularity. Tirvattar, Thukalay, Kolvel, Edaikode, Kanyakumari, Kundal, Poovioor, Mailikara are some of

\(^1\)Tamil Nadu Fisheries Statistics 1997-98, Department of Tamil Nadu Fisheries 1998.
\(^1\)Ibid. p.27
the important places of banana crafts industries established in Kanyakumari District\textsuperscript{12}.

\textbf{Important varieties of Banana in Kanyakumari District :}

It is endowed with different varieties of climatic and soil conditions. So, different varieties of banana can be cultivated there. Some of the varieties which are being cultivated in this district are not found elsewhere in the state. The common varieties of banana cultivated in this district are Palayamkottan, Tholuram (Rasthalii, Red banana, Singham (pachai Nadon in Trichy district) Rasakkathali, Monthan, Shambal monthan, Matti Nentrun, Peyan (Nadu) Sakkai Peyan, Robosta, Pachai vazhai and the like.

\textsuperscript{12} DRDA, Nagercoil.
### TABLE 3.18

**FRUIT ECONOMY OF TAMIL NADU (1999)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Area (in hectares)</th>
<th>Yield (in Kg/hectares)</th>
<th>Production (in tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kancheepuram</td>
<td>1629</td>
<td>36799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thiruvallur</td>
<td>34220</td>
<td>36030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cuddalore</td>
<td>3487</td>
<td>33667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Villupuram</td>
<td>1083</td>
<td>21639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vellore</td>
<td>6422</td>
<td>40443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Thiruvannamalai</td>
<td>2452</td>
<td>31722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>2824</td>
<td>39612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Namakkal</td>
<td>36797</td>
<td>70170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dharmapuri</td>
<td>1613</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>6888</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Erode</td>
<td>4488</td>
<td>32175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tiruchi</td>
<td>40731</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Karur</td>
<td>15871</td>
<td>26306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Perambalur</td>
<td>15871</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pudukkotai</td>
<td>3692</td>
<td>43710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Thanjavur</td>
<td>3567</td>
<td>29677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Thiruvarur</td>
<td>1029</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Nagapattinam</td>
<td>3567</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>7067</td>
<td>59943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Thani</td>
<td>36797</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Dindugal</td>
<td>3114</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Ramanathapuram</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Virudunagar</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Sivagangai</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Tirunelveli</td>
<td>6175</td>
<td>27749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Toothukudi</td>
<td>9490</td>
<td>46937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>The Nilghis</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>36979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>KanyaKumari</td>
<td>4577</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>87072</td>
<td>36797</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rare Varieties of banana in Kanyakumar District:

1. Karuntholuvan:

The colour of the tree is dark green, The fruits are green in colour. This variety is being created naturally from Red banana. It's characters are very similar as Red banana in general and taste in particular.

2. Neychinghan, Kuthiraival Chinghan and Thottuchinghan:

These belong to the same variety of chinghan. In Trichy district it is called as Pachai Naden, This is one of the Traditional variety of banana cultivated in this district, having medicinal value.

3. Pannei Vazhai:

It is also one of the tradition varieties of banana cultivated in this district. Naturally it has long stem and bunches. So it is named as pannei vazhai.

4. Chemmatti:

Its characters and taste are similar to matti vazhai. But the colour of the fingers are red. Generally this variety is cultivated in hill area. It has medicinal value also.
5. Moonghili:

It has 10 to 15 fingers, which seems to be Nendran banana and the fruits are very tasty.

6. Neykathali:

It is generally cultivated in hills areas. It has medicinal values. Moreover this variety of banana is specially used by Iyyappa devotees to worship Lord Iyyappa. The special feature of this banana is that it is always green in colour.

7. Mallai Vazhai:

This variety of banana is also cultivated in hilly regions like Sirumalai, Pazhani, Salem and Charvarayan Malai in Tamil Nadu State. This variety of banana is being used to prepare the famous Panchamirtham in Pazhani Murugan Temple.

8. Mysore Aethan:

This variety of banana has 7 to 8 lands and 100 to 120 fingers, the fingers seems to Nendran bananas. This variety is cultivated in certain areas of Kanyakumari District.
Importance of Tourism in Kanyakumari District:

Apart from the unique features of this district, there is a wide scope for tourism development. Kanyakumari in particular is a famous pilgrim centre situated at the lands end of India, at the confluence of the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. In Kanyakumari Rock memorian, Kumari Amman temple, Ancient Siva temple, Sunset and Sunrise and the 3 seas are the important places attracting the tourists.

The other picnic spot in Kanyakumari district are circular fort at Vattakottai, Padmanabapuram palace, Pechiparai Dam, Thirparappu water falls Udayagiri Fort (built by the Marthanda Varma 18th century) Muttam beach and Thotti Palam (hanging bridge).

The important pilgrim centres in Kanyakumari district are Nagaraja temple, Suchindram temple, musical pillars and the Thiruvattar temple.

13. Tourist Information Centre, Kanyakumari.