Any web application should follow model View Controller pattern. I would have chosen Spring framework to make the development easier. Define a controller which actually handles http requests, use a better rest client like jersey client to make the http call.

The service layer should have been implemented from an interface which provides a set of functionality to be implemented by service layer. The application should return synchronously where ever possible. If the data processing takes time we use asynchronous processing and update the user interface accordingly. All the http responses are properly organized with HTTP codes and response data wrapped in json. Using proper http error codes for any failure condition and provide user friendly error messages. Since this is a publicly available data there is no additional security required. Web applications need web server like tomcat which uses multiple threads. Each server could use a thread pool to scale the functionality. This could be made use of if most of the server are maintained stateless. Web application provides opportunity for using load balancers like HA Proxy for traffic control and using multiple instances of servers deployed on multiples server machines to scale the application.