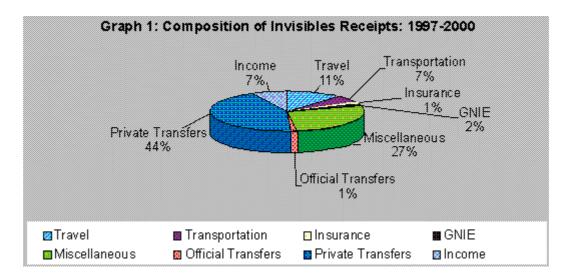
International trade in services witnessed a significant growth during the 1990s following trade liberalisation and multilateral trade negotiations, which covered services apart from goods. This process was aided by technological innovations that have reduced the time and cost of transportation and communication. Services encompass activities from financial services, transportation, travel, telecommunications, computer services to professional services such as engineering, legal and health services. While services sector accounts for a major share of output and employment in advanced industries, many emerging economies would also be fast catching up with the process.

The data on international trade in services form a part of 'invisibles' under the balance of payments (BoP) statistics and the standard presentation of BoP statistics provides information on broad heads under 'invisibles'. The BoP statistics in the standard format are disseminated at quarterly intervals in the RBI Bulletin. Keeping in view the rising contribution of invisibles in India's BoP, this article provides disaggregated data on various components of 'invisibles' for the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000^{**}.

India's BoP statistics are compiled in accordance with the IMF's Balance of Payments Manual, Fifth Edition (BPM5) with some adjustments to reflect country- specific nuances. Under the standard presentation of BoP, 'invisibles' are a part of current account along with merchandise trade. Invisibles chiefly encompass non-factor services, transfers and income. Non-factor services, on the other hand, comprise travel, transportation, insurance, government not included elsewhere (GNIE), and miscellaneous (i.e., other services); transfers constitute private transfers and official transfers; income includes investment income and compensation of employees. Data on invisibles are compiled mainly on the basis of information made available by authorised dealers (ADs), supplemented by information from other sources such as, Indian embassies, National Association of Software Service Companies (NASSCOM), financial institutions and Reserve Bank's own records.

ADs report all receipts transactions to Reserve Bank with purpose-wise classification over a threshold transactions limit equivalent to Rs.1,00,000/-. For small value transactions of under Rs.1,00,000/-, the Reserve Bank conducts a quarterly survey for apportioning these receipts under various purposes. Similarly, a survey of freight and insurance receipts on merchandise exports facilitates compilation of transportation receipts. A foreign investment survey is also conducted for computing retained earnings of foreign direct investors.

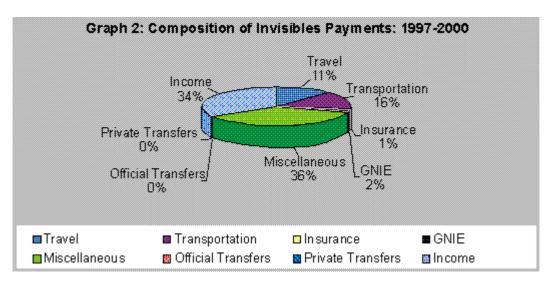
The statistics on India's invisibles, both receipts and payments, during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 under broad aggregates are presented in Table 1. It could be seen that invisibles receipts increased steadily from US \$ 23.2 billion during 1997-98 to US \$ 30.3 billion in 1999-2000. Similar rising trend was also seen for invisibles payments, which expanded from US \$ 13.2 billion to US \$ 17.4 billion during the period. Private transfers and miscellaneous services were the major contributors to the invisibles receipts during 1997-2000 (Graph 1), while invisibles payments were dominated by miscellaneous services payments, investment income payments, transportation and travel payments (Graph 2). As regards annual variations, the share of non-factor services in gross invisibles receipts showed a marked rise from 40.6 per cent in 1997-98 to 51.8 per cent in 1999-2000, while the proportion of private transfers declined from 51.1 per cent to 40.5 per cent during the same period.



	(Rs crore)		(US \$ million)			
-	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000		1998-99	1999-2000	
A. Receipts	86245	108460	131498	23244	25770	30324	
1. Services	35102	55528	68186	9429	13186	15721	
Travel	10880	12604	13166	2914	2993	3036	
Transportation	6805	8109	7560	1836	1925	1745	
Insurance	890	945	1025	240	224	236	
GNIE	1038	2520	2523	276	597	582	
Miscellaneous	15489	31350	43912	4163	7447	10122	
2. Transfers	45348	44799	54939	12254	10649	12672	
Official Transfers	1418	1305	1659	379	308	382	
Private Transfers	43930	43494	53280	11875	10341	12290	
3. Income	5795	8133	8373	1561	1935	1931	
Investment Income	5795	7953	7727	1561	1893	1783	
Compensation of Employees	0	180	646	0	42	148	
B. Payments	49323	69769	75378	13237	16562	17389	
1. Services	30159	46411	51424	8110	11021	11865	
Travel	5339	7326	9268	1437	1743	2139	

TABLE 1: INVISIBLES BY CATEGORY

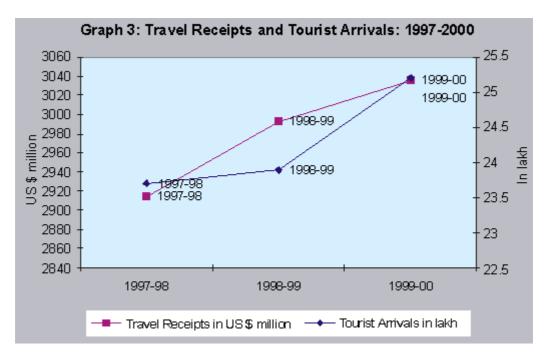
Transportation	9353	11265	10450	2522	2680	2410
Insurance	680	472	525	183	112	122
GNIE	594	1359	1167	160	325	270
Miscellaneous	14193	25989	30014	3808	6161	6924
2. Transfers	165	257	150	45	62	34
Official Transfers	0	5	2	0	1	0
Private Transfers	165	252	148	45	61	34
3. Income	18999	23101	23804	5082	5479	5490
Investment Income	18764	23032	23747	5020	5462	5478
Compensation of Employees	235	69	57	62	17	12
C. Net (A-B)	36922	38691	56120	10007	9208	12935



Travel receipts constituted the second largest share in non-factor services receipts. Travel receipts represent all the expenditure including internal travel by foreign tourists in India. However, all expenditure on the cross- border carriage of tourists, both inward and outward, are excluded from the travel account. Travel receipts largely depend on the trend in foreign tourist arrivals in India during a given period (Graph 3). Although travel receipts increased from US \$ 2,914 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 3,036 million in 1999-2000, its share in invisibles receipts earnings declined marginally from 12.5 per cent to 10.0 per cent during the period. On the other hand, travel payments which represent all the expenditure incurred by Indian tourists abroad depend on the number of Indians going abroad on business and tourism etc. and their per capita expenditure. There was an increase in travel payments from US \$ 1,437 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 2,139 million during 1999-2000. Its share in non-factor service payments, business related and basic travel quota (BTQ) payments were the major constituents (Statement

<u>I</u>).

Transportation account records receipts and payments on account of the carriage of goods and natural persons as well as other distributive services (like port charges, bunker fuel, stevedoring, cabotage, warehousing etc.) performed on merchandise trade. Transportation receipts comprise freight on exports, remittances of surplus passage fare and freight collection by Indian shipping and airline companies operating abroad and operating expenses of foreign shipping and airline companies operating in India. Transportation receipts increased from US \$ 1,836 million during 1997-98 to US \$ 1,925 million in 1998-99 and thereafter declined to US \$ 1,745 million during 1999-2000 (Statement II). While there was a steady increase in the freight on exports during the period under review, the remittance of surpluses by Indian airline companies operating abroad declined from US \$ 252 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 180 million in 1999-2000. Similarly, operating expenses of foreign shipping companies operating in India decreased from US \$ 308 million during 1997-98 to US \$ 161 million during 1999-2000.



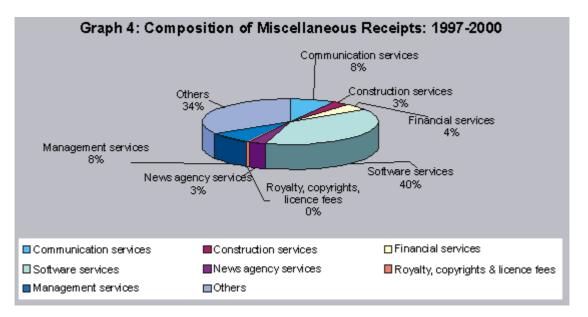
On the payments side, the remittances of surplus fare and freight collection by foreign shipping companies operating in India declined from US \$ 649 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 387 million in 1999-2000, while remittances of surplus fare and freight collection by foreign airline companies operating in India increased to US \$ 821 million in 1999-2000 from US \$ 610 million in 1997-98. Operating expenses of Indian shipping companies operating abroad also rose from US \$ 290 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 406 million in 1999-2000 (Statement II).

Insurance receipts consist of insurance on exports, premium on life and non-life policies and reinsurance premium from foreign insurance companies. Insurance on exports is directly linked with total exports from India. Insurance receipts on account of exports declined from US \$ 184 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 176 million in 1998-99 and subsequently increased to US \$ 198 million during 1999-2000 (<u>Statement III</u>). Insurance payments, also showed a similar trend falling from US \$ 183 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 112 million in 1998- 99 before increasing to US \$ 122 million in 1999-2000.

Government not included elsewhere (GNIE) receipts represent remittance towards

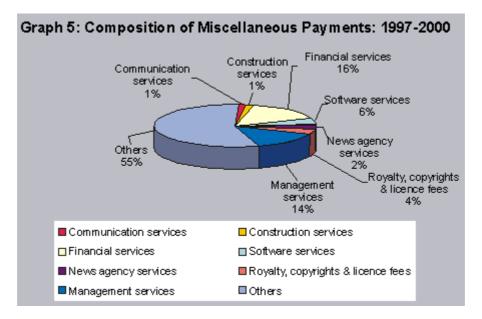
maintenance of foreign embassies, diplomatic missions and international/regional institutions in India, while GNIE payments record the remittances on account of maintenance of Indian embassies and diplomatic missions abroad and remittances by foreign embassies on their account. GNIE receipts increased from US \$ 276 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 582 million in 1999-2000 (Statement IV). Receipts on account of maintenance of international and regional institutions increased sharply from US \$ 151 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 419 million in 1998-99 and then fell to US \$ 378 million in 1999- 2000. Similarly payments for maintenance of Indian embassies and diplomatic missions abroad rose from US \$ 139 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 293 million in 1998-99 before falling to US \$ 236 million in 1999-2000.

Miscellaneous receipts constitute the second largest chunk of invisibles receipts after private transfers while miscellaneous payments account for the largest part of non-factor services payments. Miscellaneous services encompass communication services, construction services, financial services, software services, news agency services, royalties, copyright and license fees, management services and others. Miscellaneous receipts increased from US \$ 4,163 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 10,122 million during 1999-2000(<u>Statement V</u>). Under miscellaneous receipts, software services constitutes the largest share followed by communication services and management services (<u>Graph 4</u>). Software services, with an average growth rate of around 50 per cent, have emerged as an important source of services earnings contributing substantially to invisible receipts. Software exports increased sharply from US \$ 1,760 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 2,626 million in 1998-99 and further to US \$ 4,015 million in 1999-2000 reflecting the competitiveness of India's information technology sector. Communication services earnings also recorded a marked rise from US \$ 171 million during 1997-98 to US \$ 1,063 million in 1999-2000.



Miscellaneous payments showed a sharp increase from US \$ 3,808 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 6,161million in 1998-99 and then moderated to US \$ 6,924 million in the following year. Under miscellaneous payments, major constituents were financial services, management services, software services and other services (<u>Graph 5</u>). Financial services payments which stood at US \$ 647 million in 1997-98 more than doubled to US \$ 1,333 million in 1999-2000. Management services payments declined marginally from US \$ 841 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 796 million in

1999-2000. Payments on account of royalties, copyrights and license fees, which move in tandem with foreign direct investment doubled from US \$ 166 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 312 million in 1999-2000. Other services (advertisement charges/ rentals, remittances for offices abroad, exhibition expenses, prizes etc.) payments increased over two fold from US \$ 1,637 million in 1997- 98 to US \$ 3,716 million during 1999-2000 (<u>Statement V</u>).



Transfers represent one-sided transactions, i.e. transactions which do not have any *quid pro quo*, such as grants, gifts, remittances for family maintenance, repatriation of savings and migrant transfers.

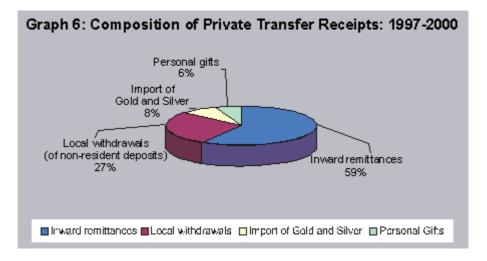
Official transfer receipts record grants and donations from non-residents to Government and other assistance received by Government from bilateral and multilateral institutions. Similarly, payments by India to other countries are recorded under official transfer payments (<u>Statement VI</u>). While official transfer payments were insignificant, receipts of grants by India fluctuated around US \$ 300 million during the period under review.

Private transfer receipts have been providing cushion to balance of payments over the years enhancing economy's resilience to external shocks. Such receipts constitute remittances by non-residents for family maintenance, repatriation of savings by Indian residents abroad and personal gifts and donations to religious and charitable institutions in India. In addition, other components such as import of gold and silver brought in as baggage by returning Indians and local withdrawals/ redemptions of non-resident deposits held in India were included under private transfer receipts since 1992-93 and 1996-97, respectively. Among the various components of private transfer receipts, inward remittances comprising the largest part of private transfer receipts increased to US \$ 7,423 million during 1999-2000 from US \$ 5,232 million in 1997- 98 (Statement VII and Graph 6). Local withdrawals/ redemption of non-resident deposits amounted to US \$ 4,120 million in 1999-2000 as against US \$ 3,418 million in 1997-98. The import of gold and silver brought in as baggage, however, declined sharply from US \$ 2,699 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 13 million in 1999-2000 on account of further liberalisation of gold and silver import through open general license (OGL) by designated agencies. Private transfer payments were, however, very nominal.

Income, under invisibles represent receipts and payments on account of compensation of

employees (wages/salaries) and investment income such as dividend and profits, interest on loans/deposits etc. Receipts and payments under compensation of employees record wages and salaries received by Indian workers abroad and foreign workers in India, respectively (<u>Statement</u> <u>VIII</u>). Transactions on account of compensation of employees formed a very small part of the income account.

Investment income transactions are in the form of interest, dividend, profit and others for servicing of capital transactions. The largest component of investment income receipts was the earnings on deployment of foreign currency assets of the Reserve Bank which rose from US \$ 1,105 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 1,383 million in 1999-2000 reflecting continued build up of foreign exchange reserves. Investment income payments move in tandem with India's external liabilities. Interest payments represent servicing of debt liabilities, while the dividend and profit payments reflect the servicing of non-debt (foreign direct investment and portfolio investment) liabilities. Total investment income payments rose from US \$ 5,020 million in 1997- 98 to US \$ 5,462 million in 1998-99 and remained around that level during the following year. Interest payments on NRI deposits rose from US \$ 1,436 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 1,742 million in 1999-2000. Payments of interest on loans also increased from US \$ 2,799 million in 1997-98 to US \$ 3,037 million in 1999-2000. Payments of dividend and profits to non-resident shareholders amounted to US \$ 537 million in 1999-2000.



* Prepared in the Division of International Finance (DIF), Department of Economic Analysis and Policy (DEAP).

** Such data for the period 1989-90 to 1996-97 were published in the RBI Bulletin for April 1999 in an article entitled "Invisibles in India's Balance of Payments : 1989-90 to 1996-97". Data for the period 1956-57 to 1989-90 were published in July 1993 in "Monograph on India's Balance of Payments".

		(1	(Rs. Crore)			(US \$ mn)			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00		
A.	Receipts								
	Tourist Expenses in India	10880	12604	13166	2914	2993	3036		
	TOTAL-A	10880	12604	13166	2914	2993	3036		

STATEMENT I : TRAVEL ACCOUNT

B. Payments

Travel Net (A-B)	5541	5278	3898	1477	1250	897
TOTAL-B	5339	7326	9268	1437	1743	2139
international credit cards)						
Others (includes settlements of	1132	1557	1262	306	373	291
Pilgrimage	329	292	602	85	69	137
Basic travel quota (BTQ)	1256	1532	1638	340	363	379
Education Related	210	218	263	57	52	6
Health Related	21	40	13	6	9	-
Business	2391	3687	5490	643	877	1268

STATEMENT II: TRANSPORTATION ACCOUNT

		(]	Rs. Crore)		(US \$ mn)			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	
A.	Receipts							
	a. Sea Transport							
	Surplus remitted by Indian							
	companies operating abroad	181	207	262	47	49	62	
	Operating expenses of foreign							
	companies in India.	1139	844	696	308	201	161	
	Charter hire charges	176	104	181	49	25	41	
	b. Air Transport							
	Surplus remitted by Indian							
	companies operating abroad	937	700	781	252	167	180	
	Operating expenses of foreign							
	companies in India.	301	251	87	81	60	21	
	Charter hire charges	72	374	103	19	89	24	
c.		3570	4318	4777	966	1026	1102	
d.	Others (includes port charges, bunker, stevedoring, demurrage and other port facilities)	429	1311	673	114	308	154	
TC	DTAL-A	6805	8109	7560	1836	1925	1745	
B.	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e							
	a. Sea Transport							
	Surplus remitted by Foreign							
	companies operating in India	2396	1834	1681	649	388	387	
	Operating expenses of Indian							
	companies abroad	1070	1353	1757	290	319	406	
	Charter hire charges	663	656	501	179	155	116	

b. Air Transport

Transportation Net (A-B)	-2548	-3156	-2890	-686	-755	-665
TOTAL-B	9353	11265	10450	2522	2680	2410
bunker,stevedoring, demurrage and other port facilities)						
e. Others (includes port charges,	233	969	625	60	229	144
abroad.						
d. Remittance of passage booking	430	332	104	114	31	23
c. Freight on imports	1004	1584	1317	268	380	304
Charter hire charges	529	345	324	144	177	75
Operating expenses of Indian companies abroad	779	966	580	208	232	134
Surplus remitted by Foreign companies operating in India	2249	3226	3561	610	769	821

STATEMENT III: INSURANCE ACCOUNT

	(]	Rs. Crore)		(US \$ mn)			
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	
A. Receipts							
a. Insurance on export	683	744	853	184	176	198	
b. Premium							
Life	19	2	3	5	0	0	
Non-life	1	34	31	0	8	7	
Reinsurance from foreign							
companies	50	78	43	12	19	10	
c. Commission on Business							
received from foreign companies	5	15	2	1	4	0	
d. Others (includes settlement of claims	132	72	93	38	17	21	
on account of insurance &							
reinsurance							
TOTAL-A	890	945	1025	240	224	236	
B. Payments							
a. Premium							
Life	4	2	3	1	0	1	
Non-life	197	93	45	54	34	10	
Reinsurance	333	192	328	89	46	77	
b. Commission on Business	12	6	3	3	1	1	
c. Others (includes settlement of claims	134	179	146	36	31	33	
on account of insurance &							
reinsurance							
TOTAL-B	680	472	525	183	112	122	
Insurance Net (A-B)	210	473	500	57	112	114	

STATEMENT IV: GOVERNMENT NOT INCLUDED ELSEWHERE (GNIE) ACCOUNT

 I)	(Rs. Crore)			(US \$ mn)		
1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	

A. Receipts

a. Maintenance of foreign embassies and	4.57	7.40	007	105	170	204
diplomatic missions in India	457	749	887	125	178	204
b. Maintenance of international and						
regional						
institutions in India	581	1771	1636	151	419	378
TOTAL-A	1038	2520	2523	276	597	582
B. Payments						
a. Maintenance of Indian embassies and						
diplomatic missions abroad	515	1227	1023	139	293	236
b. Remittances by foreign embassies and						
missions in India	79	132	144	21	32	34
TOTAL-B	594	1359	1167	160	325	270
GNIE Net (A-B)	444	1161	1356	116	272	312

 STATEMENT V: MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT

		(1	Rs. Crore)		(US \$ mn)			
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00		
A.	Receipts								
	Communication services	624	2552	4601	171	601	1063		
	Construction services	370	634	1691	101	150	390		
	Financial services	1112	1190	1569	296	283	361		
	Software services	6570	11064	17412	1760	2626	4015		
	News agency services	586	1106	1485	156	262	341		
	Royalties, copyright and license fees	80	73	237	21	18	55		
	Management services	2044	2477	2790	549	590	643		
	Other services (Advertising, rentals, office maintenance, prizes, exibitions& other services not enumerated elsewhere)	4103	12254	14127	1109	2917	3254		
TC	DTAL-A	15489	31350	43912	4163	7447	10122		
<u>B.</u>	Payments	10109	01000		1100	,,	10122		
	Communication services	323	435	826	87	103	190		
	Construction services	239	414	220	65	98	50		
	Financial services	2402	2885	5785	647	687	1333		
	Software services	829	1461	1600	223	348	368		
	News agency services	530	431	693	142	104	159		
	Royalties, copyright and license fees	618	1055	1351	166	250	312		

Management services	3132	2802	3456	841	663	796
Other services (Advertising, rentals, office maintenance, prizes, exibitions & other services not enumerated elsewhere)	6120	16506	16083	1637	3908	3716
TOTAL-B	14193	25989	30014	3808	6161	6924
Miscellaneous Net (A-B)	1296	5361	13898	355	1286	3198

(Rs. Crore) (US \$ mn) 1997-98 1998-99 1999-00 1997-98 1999-00 1998-99 A. Receipts Donations received from Non- residents Grant under PL 480 II Grants from other Governments **TOTAL-A B.** Payments Grants/donations from official sector **TOTAL-B Official Transfers Net (A-B)**

STATEMENT VI: OFFICIAL TRANSFERS

STATEMENT VII: PRIVATE TRANSFERS

		(Rs. Crore)			(US \$ mn)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
A.	RECEIPTS						
	Inward remittance from Indian workers						
	abroad for family maintainance etc.	19303	32253	32192	5232	7661	7423
	Local withdrawals/redemptions of						
	non-resident deposits	12773	7808	17849	3418	1859	4120
	Gold and silver brought through passenger baggage Personal gifts/donations to	9900	705	57	2699	171	13
	charitable/religious institutions in India.	1954	2728	3182	526	650	734
TOTAL -A		43930	43494	53280	11875	10341	12290
B.	PAYMENTS						
	Remittance by foreign workers						
	for family maintenance etc.	153	219	125	42	53	28
	Personal gifts/donations to charitable/						
	religious institutions in India.	12	33	23	3	8	6
TOTAL -B		165	252	148	45	61	34
PR	IVATE TRANSFERS NET (A-B)	43765	43242	53132	11830	10280	12256

STATEMENT VIII: INCOME ACCOUNT

		(Rs. Crore)			(US \$ mn)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
1.	Receipts (I+II)	5795	8133	8373	1561	1935	1931
2.	Payments (I+II)	18999	23101	23804	5082	5479	5490
	t Income (1-2)	-13204	-14968	-15431	-3521	-3544	-3559
I.	Compensation of Employees						
	A. Receipts						
	Wages received by the Indians working on foreign contracts or the foreigners working in India on foreign contracts.	0	180	646	0	42	148
	B. Payments						
	Payment of wages/salary to Non- residents working in India or Indians working on projects abroad	235	69	57	62	17	12
	mpensation of Employees Net (A-B)	-235	111	589	-62	25	136
II.	Investment Income						
	A. Receipts						
	Interest received on loans to non-residents	171	294	688	46	69	159
	Dividend/profit received by Indians on foreign investment	95	103	68	25	25	16
	Interest received on debentures,FRNs,CPs, fixed deposits and funds held abroad by ADs out of foreign currency loans/export proceeds	44	20	50	12	5	11
	Interest received on overdraft of VOSTRO accounts of foreign correspondents / branches by the ADs	55	40	38	14	10	10
	Payment of taxes by the non- residents/refund of taxes by foreign governments to Indians	1315	1799	854	358	426	195
	Interest/discount etc. earnings on RBI investment	4113	5691	5992	1105	1357	1383
TC	Interest/remuneration on SDR holdings	<u>2</u> 5795	6 7953	37 7727	1 1561	1 1893	9 1783
-	Payments	2.20			1001	10/0	1.00
-	Payment of interest on non-resident deposits	5384	6919	7549	1436	1637	1742
	Payment of interest on loans from non-	10442	11657	13167	2799	2762	3037

vestment Income Net (A-B)	-12969	-15079	-16020	-3459	-3569	-3695
DTAL-B	18764	23032	23747	5020	5462	5478
Payment of taxes by the Indians/refund of taxes by government to non-residents	189	497	52	53	118	13
Interest paid on overdraft on NOSTRO Account	156	13	2	41	4	(
Charges on SDRs	317	258	132	85	62	30
Payment of interest on debentures, FRNs, CPs, fixed deposits, Government securities etc.	106	936	512	28	221	119
Payment of dividend/profit to non-resident share holders	2170	2752	2333	578	658	537
residents						