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Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the Fourth Quarter (January-March) of 2013-14

Preliminary data on India's balance of payments (BoP) for the fourth quarter (Q4), *i.e.*, January-March, of the financial year 2013-14, are now available and presented in <u>Statements I</u> and <u>II</u>. While Statement I presents BoP data in BPM6 format, Statement II provides the same as per the old format.

Developments in India's BoP during January-March 2014

- India's current account deficit (CAD) narrowed sharply to US\$ 1.2 billion (0.2 per cent of GDP) in Q4 of 2013-14 from US\$ 18.1 billion (3.6 per cent of GDP) in Q4 of 2012-13 which was also lower than US\$ 4.2 billion (0.9 per cent of GDP) in Q3 of 2013-14. The lower CAD was primarily on account of a decline in the trade deficit as decline in imports was sharper than that in exports.
- On a BoP basis, merchandise exports declined by 1.3 per cent to US\$ 83.7 billion in Q4 of 2013-14 as against an increase of 5.9 per cent in Q4 of 2012-13.
- On the other hand, declining trend in merchandise imports (on BoP basis) continued in Q4 of 2013-14. Imports at US\$ 114.3 billion moderated by 12.3 per cent in Q4 of 2013-14 as compared with a decline of 1.0 per cent in Q4 of 2012-13. Decline in imports was primarily led by a steep decline in gold imports, which amounted to US\$ 5.3 billion, significantly lower than US\$ 15.8 billion in Q4 of 2012-13.
- As a result, the merchandise trade deficit (BoP basis) contracted by about 33 per cent to US\$ 30.7 billion in Q4 of 2013-14 from US\$ 45.6 billion in the corresponding quarter a year ago.
- Net services receipts improved during Q4 of 2013-14 on account of higher exports of services. Net services at US\$ 19.6 billion recorded a growth of 15.6 per cent in Q4 of 2013-14 as against a decline of 3.9 per cent in Q4 of 2012-13.
- Net outflow on account of primary income (profit, dividend and interest) amounting to US\$ 6.4 billion in Q4 of 2013-14 was higher than that of US\$ 5.2 billion in the corresponding quarter of 2012-13 as well as the preceding quarter (US\$ 5.4 billion). In Q4 of 2013-14, gross private transfer receipts at US\$ 17.3 billion also improved by 3.0 per cent over the corresponding quarter of 2012-13.
- In the financial account, on net basis, both foreign direct investment and portfolio investment recorded inflows in Q4 of 2013-14. While net inflow on account of portfolio investment was US\$ 9.3 billion, net FDI flow was lower at US\$ 0.9 billion.

- 'Loans'(net) availed by deposit taking corporations (commercial banks) witnessed an outflow of US\$ 5.7 billion in Q4 of 2013-14 owing to repayments of overseas borrowings and a build-up of their overseas foreign currency assets. Under 'currency & deposits', net inflows of NRI deposits amounted to US\$ 3.7 billion in Q4 of 2013-14 as compared to US\$ 2.8 billion in Q4 of 2012-13. Loans (net) availed by other sectors (*i.e.*, external commercial borrowings) at US\$ 4.9 billion also showed an increase of 19.4 per cent over Q4 of 2012-13. Net trade credits and advances, however, continued to show outflow in Q4 of 2013-14 as repayments remained higher than disbursements.
- On a BoP basis, there was a net accretion of US\$ 7.1 billion to India's foreign exchange reserves in Q4 of 2013-14 as compared with US\$ 19.1 billion in the preceding quarter (Table 1).

Developments in India's BoP during 2013-14

- Export recovery and moderation in imports led to a sharp improvement in the trade deficit to US\$ 147.6 billion in 2013-14 from US\$ 195.7 billion in 2012-13.
- Contraction in the trade deficit, coupled with a rise in net invisibles receipts, resulted in a reduction of the CAD to US\$ 32.4 billion (1.7 per cent of GDP) from US\$ 87.8 billion (4.7 per cent of GDP) in 2012-13.
- Net inflows under the capital and financial account (excluding change in foreign exchange reserves) declined to US\$ 48.8 billion in 2013-14 from US\$ 89.0 billion in corresponding period of 2012-13 owing to lower net FDI and portfolio flows, net repayment of loans and trade credit & advances.
- On BoP basis, foreign exchange reserves increased by US\$ 15.5 billion during 2013-14 as compared with US\$ 3.8 billion in 2012-13.

Table 1: Major Items of India's Balance of Payments (US\$ Billion)												
	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net
A Current Account	144.4	145.6	-1.2	142.0	160.1	-18.1	551.4	583.7	-32.4	530.2	618.1	-87.8
1. Goods	83.7	114.3	-30.7	84.8	130.4	-45.6	318.6	466.2	-147.6	306.6	502.2	-195.7
Of which:												
POL	14.8	42.7	-27.9	16.1	42.2	-26.1	62.7	165.2	-102.5	60.9	164.0	-103.2
2.Services	40.6	21.0	19.6	37.8	20.9	17.0	151.5	78.5	73.0	145.7	80.8	64.9
3. Primary Income	2.8	9.2	-6.4	2.6	7.8	-5.2	11.4	34.4	-23.0	10.3	31.7	-21.5
4. Secondary Income	17.3	1.0	16.3	16.8	1.0	15.8	69.9	4.6	65.3	67.7	3.3	64.4
B. Capital Account and Financial Account Of which:	127.1	125.1	2.0	133.9	116.1	17.8	523.2	490.0	33.3	473.5	388.4	85.2
Change in Reserve												<u> </u>
(increase (-)/Decrease (+))	0.0	7.1	-7.1	0.0	2.7	-2.7	0.0	15.5	-15.5	0.0	3.8	-3.8
C. Errors & Omissions (-)(A+B)			-0.8			0.3			-0.9			2.7
P: Preliminary; PR: Part	ially Revi	sed										
Note: Total of subcompo	onents ma	av not ta	ally with a	adareda	te due to	o roundir	na off.					

not tally with aggrega