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Sources of Variation in Foreign Exchange Reserves in India during April-September 2020

Earlier today, the Reserve Bank of India released <u>balance of payments (BoP) data</u> <u>for July-September 2020</u> on its website (<u>www.rbi.org.in</u>). On the basis of these data, the sources of variation in foreign exchange reserves during April-September 2020 are detailed below.

Sources of Variation in Foreign Exchange Reserves: April-September 2020

During April-September 2020, there was an increase in the foreign exchange reserves, the sources of which are set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Sources of Variation in Foreign Exchange Reserves*						
				(US\$ billion)		
Items			April-	April-		
			September 2020-21	September 2019-20		
Ι.		Current Account Balance	34.7	-22.6		
١١.		Capital Account (net) (a to f)	16.7	41.7		
	a.	Foreign Investment (i+ii)	31.4	28.6		
		(i) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)	23.8	21.3		
		(ii) Portfolio Investment	7.6	7.3		
		Of which:				
		Foreign Institutional Investment (FII)	8.8	7.2		
		ADR/GDR	0.0	0.0		
	b.	Banking Capital	-8.9	1.6		
		Of which: NRI Deposits	4.9	5.0		
	C.	Short term credit	-2.0	1.3		
	d.	External Assistance	6.0	1.9		
	e.	External Commercial Borrowings	-5.7	9.4		
	f.	Other items in capital account	-4.1	-1.2		
III.		Valuation change	15.5	1.7		
		Total (I+II+III) @ Increase in reserves (+) / Decrease in reserves (-)	66.9	20.8		
*: @: Note:	*: Based on the old format of BoP which may differ from the new format (BPM6) in the treatment of transfers under the current account and ADRs/ GDRs under portfolio investment.					

On a balance of payments basis (*i.e.*, excluding valuation effects), foreign exchange reserves increased by US\$ 51.4 billion during April-September 2020 as compared with US\$ 19.1 billion during April-September 2019. Foreign exchange reserves in nominal terms (including valuation effects) increased by US\$ 66.9 billion during April-September 2020 as compared with US\$ 20.8 billion in the corresponding period of the preceding year (Table 2).

	Table 2: Comparative Position of Variation in Reserves				
			(US\$ Billion)		
	Items	April- September 2020-21	April- September 2019-20		
1	Change in Foreign Exchange Reserves (Including Valuation Effects)	66.9	20.8		
2	Valuation Effects [Gain (+)/Loss (-)]	15.5	1.7		
3	Change in Foreign Exchange Reserves on BoP basis (<i>i.e.</i> , Excluding Valuation Effects)	51.4	19.1		
	Note: Increase in reserves (+)/Decrease in reserves (-). Difference, if any, is due to rounding off.				

The valuation gain, reflecting the depreciation of the US dollar against major currencies and increase in gold prices, amounted to US\$ 15.5 billion during April-September 2020 as compared with US\$ 1.7 billion during April-September 2019.

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