



Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Economic Affairs
Economic Division
8(2)/Ec Dn/ 2001

MONTHLY ECONOMIC REPORT

APRIL, 2001

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Pre-Monsoon season rainfall upto 11 April 2001 was normal/excess in 37 per cent of meteorological sub-divisions.
- Foodgrains stocks 46.52 million tonnes as on March 1, 2001.
- Overall industrial growth 5.1 per cent in April-February, 2000-01.
- Core infrastructure sectors achieved an average growth rate of 7.1 per cent in April-January, 2000-01 as against 9.0 per cent in the corresponding period of last year.
- Money Supply (M3) growth was 16.1 per cent during March 31, 2000 to March 23, 2001, whereas annual growth rate for fortnight ended March 23, 2001 was 15.6 per cent. Net RBI Credit to Government declined by 2.5 per cent during March 31, 2000 to March 23, 2001.
- The annual inflation rate in terms of WPI (Base 1993-94) was 4.9 per cent for week ended April 7, 2001 compared to 6.8 per cent a year ago.
- Exports increased by 20.0 per cent in dollar terms in April-February, 2000-01 compared to an increase of 9.9 per cent in April-February, 1999-2000. Imports increased by 6.7 per cent as against an increase of 11.5 per cent in corresponding period of last year.
- Rupee appreciated against Pound Sterling, Deutsche Mark, French Franc, Japanese Yen and Euro and depreciated against US Dollar in March, 2001.
- Forex reserves (excluding Gold & SDRs) stood at \$39.55 billion at the end of March, 2001.

(Manoranjan Kumar)
Deputy Economic Adviser

AGRICULTURE

PRE-MONSOON SEASON RAINFALL*

Number of Meteorological Sub-divisions							
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1996-00+	2001
Excess/Normal	6	31	22	3	7	14	13
Deficient/Scanty/Nil	29	4	13	32	28	21	22
Total	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
+ Annual average		* (March-May)					

The Pre-Monsoon season rainfall from March 1, 2001 to April 11, 2001 was normal/excess in 13 (37 per cent) meteorological sub-divisions and deficient/scanty in the remaining 22 (63 per cent). The annual average for 1996-2000 was normal/excess in 14 (39 per cent) meteorological sub-divisions and deficient/scanty in the remaining 21 (61 per cent).

PROCUREMENT

(Million Tonnes)

	Full Marketing Year			Up to April 16		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2000(P)	2001(P)	% change Col. (6)/(5)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	Col. (6)/(5)
Rice (Oct-Sep)	11.85	17.27	15.79	14.19	15.79	11.3
Wheat (Apr-Mar)	12.65	14.15	16.36	0.36	0.51	41.7
Total	24.50	31.42	32.15	14.55	16.30	12.0

Note : Rice Procurement for full marketing year is available upto April 16, 2001

Wheat procurement up to April 16, 2001 in the current marketing year, (i.e., 2001-2002) was higher by 41.7 per cent at 0.51 million tonnes compared to 0.36 million tonnes in the corresponding period in 2000-2001. Procurement of rice during the marketing year 2000-01 (up to April 16, 2001) at 15.79 million tonnes was higher by 11.3 per cent than the level of 14.19 million tonnes during the corresponding period of 1999-2000.

OFF-TAKE

(Million Tonnes)

	1998-99	1999-2000	April-February	
			1999-2000	2000-01(P)
Rice	11.83	12.21	11.22	9.22
Wheat	8.90	10.10	8.75	6.01
Total	20.73	22.31	19.97	15.22

Off-take from the public distribution system central pool during April-February, 2000-01 was 15.22 million tonnes which was lower by 23.8 per cent than the off-take of 19.97 million tonnes during corresponding period of last year.

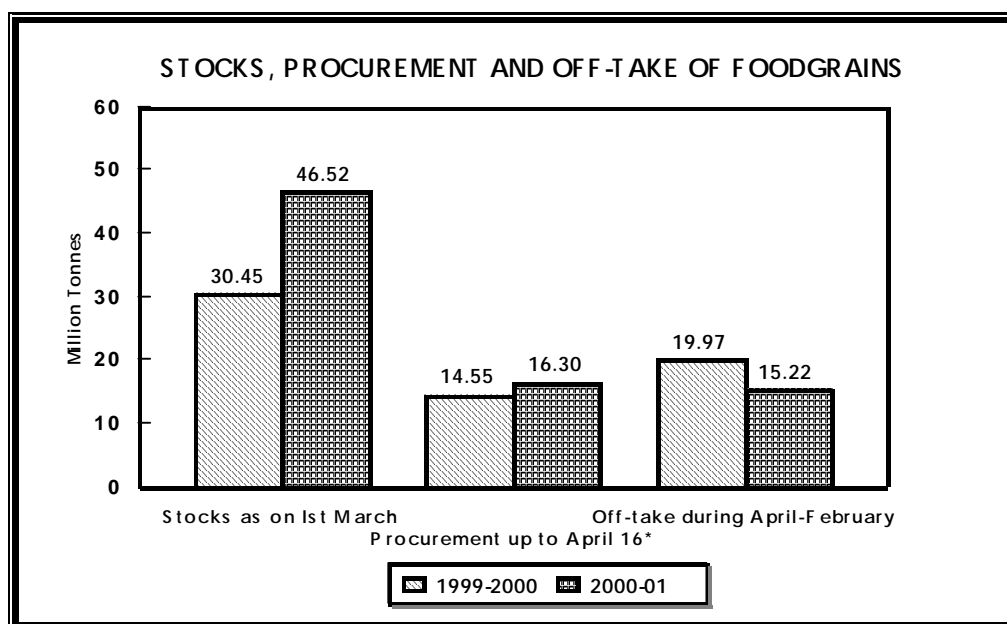
P- Provisional

STOCKS

(Million Tonnes)

	As on 1st February		As on 1st March	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
Rice	15.36	22.40	16.05	23.22
Wheat	15.81	24.12	14.40	23.30
Total	31.17	46.51	30.45	46.52

Stocks of foodgrains as on 1st March, 2001 at 46.52 million tonnes which was higher by 52.8 per cent than the level at 30.45 million tonnes as on 1st March, 2000.



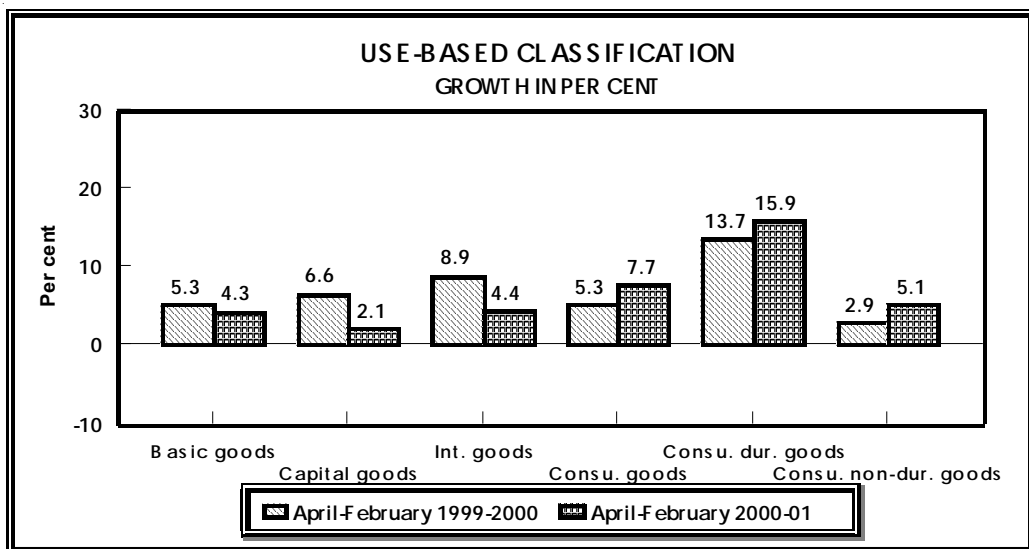
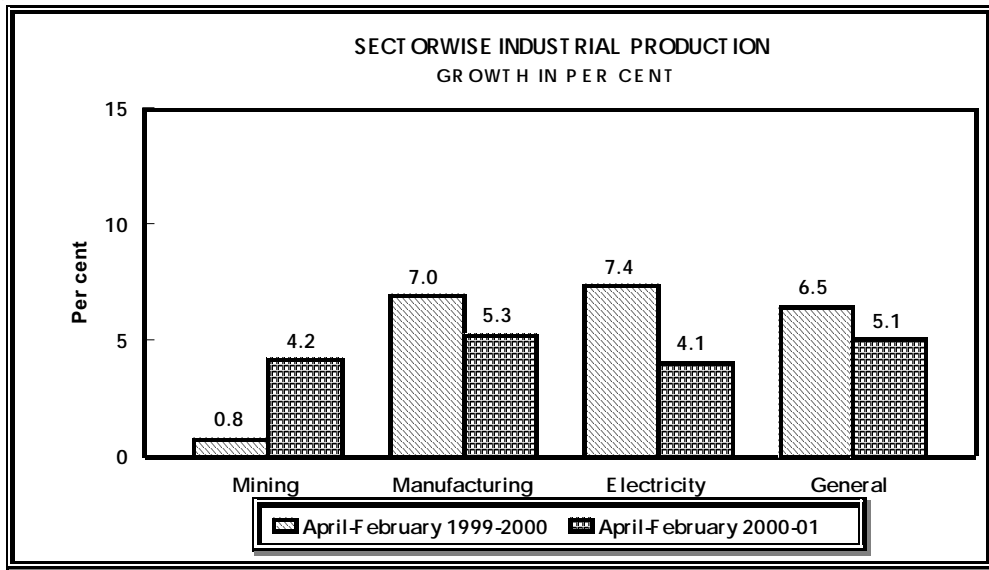
* Wheat year 2001-2002 just begun.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

SECTORWISE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION					<i>(Percentage change)</i>	
(Base = 1993-94 = 100)						
	1998-99/ 1997-98	1999-00/ 1998-99	Feb. '00/ Feb. '99	Feb. '01/ Feb. '00	<u>April-February</u>	
					1999-00	2000-01
<u>General</u>	4.1	6.6	8.2	0.6	6.5	5.1
Mining & Quarrying	-0.8	1.0	3.9	2.5	0.8	4.2
Manufacturing	4.4	7.1	8.5	0.6	7.0	5.3
Electricity	6.5	6.6	8.8	-1.1	7.4	4.1
<u>Use-Based Classification</u>						
Basic goods	1.6	5.3	8.5	-0.4	5.3	4.3
Capital goods	12.6	6.9	7.5	-3.6	6.6	2.1
Intermediate goods	6.1	8.8	9.1	2.1	8.9	4.4
Consumer goods	2.2	5.7	7.1	1.6	5.3	7.7
<u>Of which</u>						
Consumer Durables	5.6	14.2	17.4	9.1	13.7	15.9
Consumer non-Durables	1.2	3.2	4.4	-0.6	2.9	5.1

The overall growth rate of Industrial production in **April-February, 2000-01** at 5.1 per cent recorded a lower growth compared to 6.5 per cent in April-February, 1999-2000. The growth in manufacturing sector, electricity generation and mining & quarrying during April-February, 2000-01 was 5.3%, 4.1% and 4.2% respectively as against 7.0%, 7.4% and 0.8% in the corresponding period of last year..

As per the use-based classification, production in consumer goods (both durables and non-durables) during April-February, 2000-01 registered higher increase while basic goods, capital goods and intermediate goods registered lower increase compared with the corresponding period of last year.

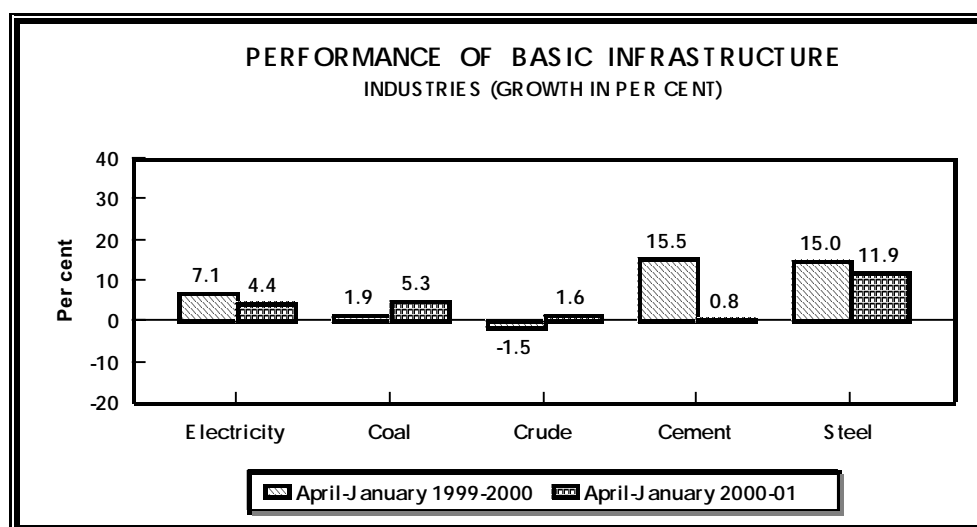


INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRIES

PRODUCTION IN INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRIES								
Industry/Infrastructure	Unit						Percentage change April-Jan.	
		January 2000	January 2001	Full Year 1999-00	April-Jan. 1999-00	April-Jan. 2000-01	1999-00/ 1998-99	2000-01/ 1999-00
Coal	Mn. Ton	30.0	30.4	299.7	237.1	250.1	1.9	5.3
Electricity Generation	Mn. Kwh	41707	42297	480224	397410	415036	7.1	4.4
Hydel	Mn. kw	5734	4815	80523	68958	64632	-2.4	-6.3
Thermal (including nuclear)	Mn. kw	35973	37482	399701	328452	350404	9.3	6.7
Plant Load Factor	Per cent	70.7	71.9	67.3	66.3	68.1	-	-
Crude petroleum	000 tons	2613	2821	31998	26908	27346	-1.5	1.6
Petroleum Products	000 tons	7444	8137	79936.5	64254	79478	23.7	23.7
Finished steel	000 tons	2524	2649	28140	23312	26096	15.0	11.9
Cement	000 tons	9100	7987	100390	81700	82317	15.5	0.8
Average growth rate*	(%)	8.1	2.4	8.0	-	-	9.0	7.1
Cargo handled at major ports	Mn. Ton	21.12	24.67	271.87	222.60	233.91	7.8	5.1
Telecommunications								
a) Net switching capacity	000 lines	618.81	654.51	6717.32	3388.00	3912.51	56.4	15.5
b) Net Tele. connections	000 nos	509.40	619.25	4917.66	2709.34	3473.70	34.2	28.2
Revenue earning goods traffic on railways	Mn. Ton	40.25	41.57	456.31	370.92	389.40	8.0	5.0

* Weights as in IIP (Base: 1993-94) : Coal (3.2), Electricity generation (10.2), Crude oil (4.2), Refinery throughput (2.0), Finished steel (5.1) and Cement (2.0).

The core infrastructure sectors registered mixed performance during **April-January, 2000-01** as compared to the corresponding period of the last year. In this period average growth rate was 7.1 per cent as compared to 9.0 per cent in the corresponding period of last year.



REVENUE EARNING GOODS TRAFFIC ON RAILWAYS

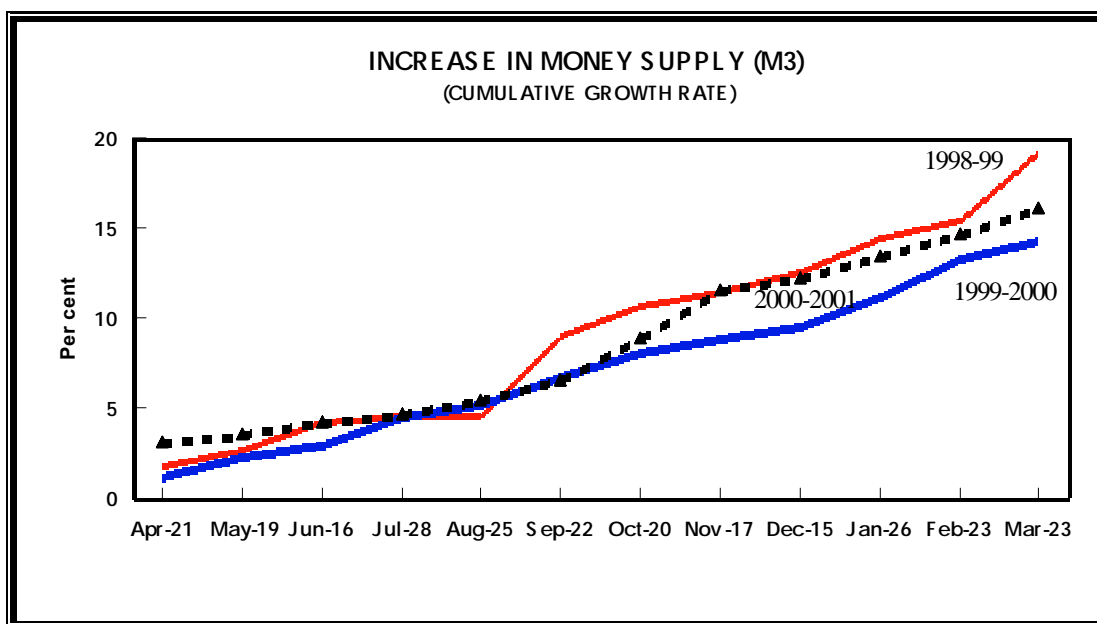
REVENUE EARNING GOODS TRAFFIC ON RAILWAYS							
Commodities	Million Tonnes					Percentage Change	
	January 2000	2001	Full Year 1999-00	April-Jan. 1999-00	2000-01	Jan. 2000/1999	April-Jan. 2000-01/ 1999-00
Coal	18.55	20.08	209.93	171.06	183.91	8.2	7.5
Raw material for Steel Plants	3.45	3.35	37.48	30.99	32.08	-2.9	3.5
Pig Iron & Finished Steel From Steel Plants	1.08	0.96	11.76	9.64	9.53	-11.1	-1.1
Iron Ore for Exports	1.07	1.19	12.32	9.83	11.69	11.2	18.9
Cement	4.02	3.51	43.57	35.26	35.05	-12.7	-0.6
Foodgrains	2.81	2.42	31.04	25.04	21.41	-13.9	-14.5
Fertilizers	2.33	2.12	31.04	26.73	23.40	-9.0	-12.5
POL	2.64	3.99	34.39	27.75	29.99	13.3	8.1
Balance other goods	4.30	4.95	44.78	34.62	42.34	15.1	22.3
Total	40.25	41.57	456.31	370.92	389.40	3.3	5.0

The revenue earning goods traffic handled by the Railways increased by 5.0 per cent during **April-January, 2000-01**. The increase was on account of goods traffic on railways for iron ore for exports, coal, raw material for steel plants, POL and balance other goods.

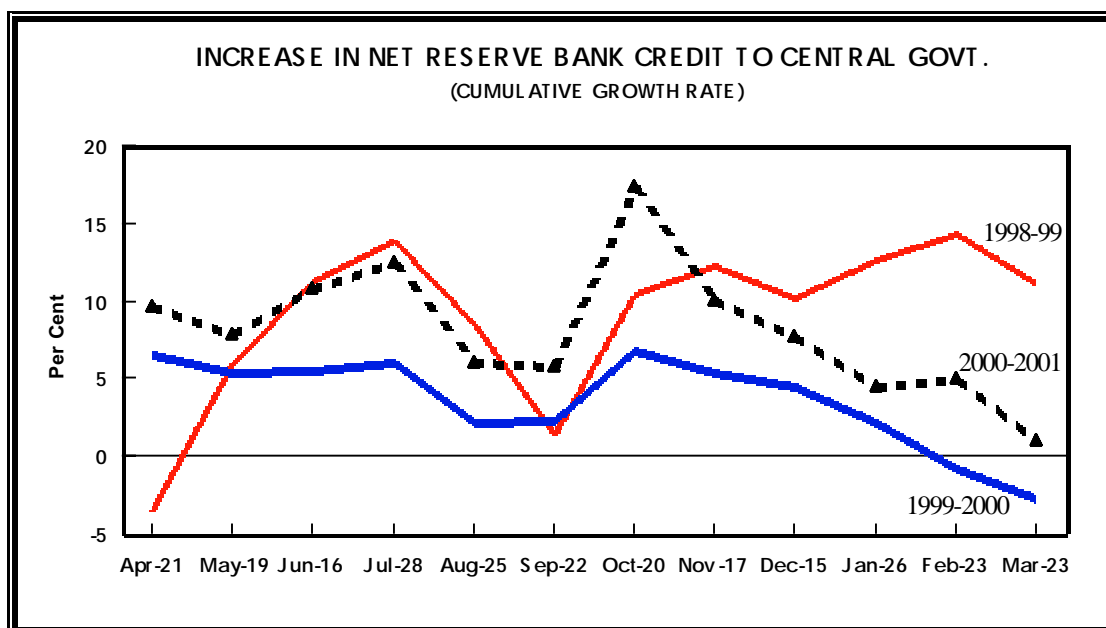
MONEY AND BANKING

VARIATIONS IN MONEY STOCK						
	Full Year Mar 31 '99 to Mar 31 '00	Mar 31 '00 to Mar 23 '01 (PR)	Full Year Mar 31 '99 to Mar 31 '00	Mar 31 '99 to Mar 24 '00 (P)	Mar 31 '00 to Mar 23 '01 (PR)	Mar 24 '00 to Mar 23 '01 (P)
	<i>(Rs crore)</i>		<i>(per cent)</i>			
M1 (I+II+IV)	31492	35923	10.2	11.5	10.5	9.3
M3(M1+ III)	136182	179360	13.9	14.3	16.1	15.6
I. Currency with the public	19761	23136	11.7	14.0	12.3	9.9
II. Demand deposits with banks	12418	12833	9.1	9.0	8.6	8.8
III. Time deposits with banks	104689	143436	15.6	15.7	18.5	18.4
IV. Other deposits with RBI	-687	-46	-18.1	-14.6	-1.5	-5.5
Sources of change in M3						
(1+2+3+4-5)						
1. Net bank credit to Govt (A+B)	55077	59705	14.2	13.1	13.5	14.7
A. RBI's net credit to Govt ^a	-4275	-3648	-2.8	-5.7	-2.5	0.5
To Central Govt	-5587	1560	-3.8	-2.7	1.1	-0.1
To State Govts	1312	-5208	18.4	-67.0	-61.7	37.2
B. Other bank credit to Govt	59352	63353	25.3	25.3	21.6	21.6
2. Bank credit to commercial sector	82548	80898	16.6	16.1	14.0	14.5
3. Net foreign exchange assets of banking sector ^b	27795	37469	15.6	14.4	18.2	19.5
4. Govt's currency liabilities to the public	416	644	10.8	19.0	15.1	7.1
5. Banking sector's net non-monetary liabilities other than time deposits	29654	-644	35.6	19.3	-0.6	13.0
P Provisional						
PR Partially revised						
a. Includes special securities						
b. Inclusive of appreciation in the value of gold following its re-valuation close to international market price effective October 17, 1990. Such appreciation has a corresponding effect on RBI's net non-monetary liabilities.						

During the current financial year so far (i.e., March 31, 2000 to March 23, 2001) money supply (M3) increased by 16.1 per cent as against an increase of 14.3 per cent in the corresponding period of 1999-2000. Among its components, currency with the public showed a growth of 12.3 per cent as against 14.0 per cent in the corresponding period of last year. Demand deposits with banks showed an increase of 8.6 per cent as against an increase of 9.0 per cent in the corresponding period of last financial year. Time deposits with banks has gone up by 18.5 per cent as against an increase of 15.7 per cent in the corresponding period of last year. This reflected the inclusion of Rs. 25,662 crore in the time deposits of banks from the India Millennium Deposits (IMDs) in November, 2000. The annual growth of M3 as on March 23, 2001 stood at 15.6 per cent.



On the sources side, the Net Bank Credit to Government showed a growth of 13.5 per cent during the current financial year (i.e. March 31, 2000 to March 23, 2001) which is lower than that of 13.1 per cent increase in the same period of 1999-2000. RBI's Net Credit to Central Government increased by 1.1 per cent as against a decline of 2.7 per cent in 1999-2000. Bank credit to the commercial sector increased by 14.0 per cent as against an increase of 16.1 per cent in the same period of last year. Net foreign exchange assets of banking sector increased by 18.2 per cent as compared with 14.4 per cent in the corresponding period of 1999-2000.



SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS

SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS: VARIATION IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES						
	Full Year Mar 26,'99 to Mar 24,'00	Mar 24,'00 to Mar 23,'01 (PR)	Full Year Mar 26,'99 to Mar 24,'00	Mar 26,'99 to Mar 24,'00	Mar 24,'00 to Mar 23,'01 (P)	Mar 24,'00 to Mar 23,'01 (P)
	<i>(Rs crore)</i>		<i>(per cent)</i>			
1. Bank credit	67121	72964	18.2	18.2	16.7	16.7
Food credit	8875	14300	52.8	52.8	55.7	55.7
Non-food credit	58246	58664	16.5	16.5	14.3	14.3
2. Aggregate deposits	99320	144243	13.9	13.9	17.7	17.7
Demand deposits	9943	13313	8.5	8.5	10.5	10.5
Time deposits	89376	130930	15.0	15.0	19.1	19.1
3. Borrowings from RBI	3597	-2595	124.3	124.3	-40.0	-40.0
4. Cash reserves	-5161	2453	-7.6	-7.6	3.9	3.9
Cash in hand	968	329	22.2	22.2	6.2	6.2
Balances with RBI	-6129	2124	-9.6	-9.6	3.7	3.7
5. Investments in Govt. and other approved securities	54349	60893	21.3	21.3	19.7	19.7
P = Provisional						

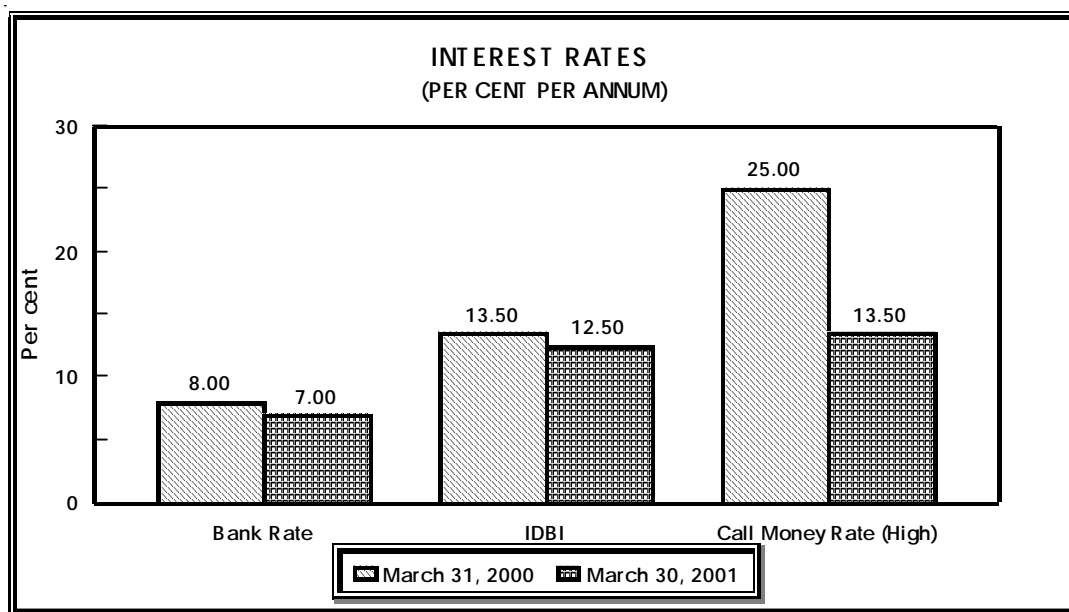
Bank credit by the scheduled commercial banks during the current financial year so far (i.e. March 24, 2000 to March 23, 2001) showed a growth of 16.7 per cent as compared with an increase of 18.2 per cent in the corresponding period of last financial year. Food credit increased by 55.7 per cent while non-food credit increased by 14.3 per cent during this period.

INTEREST RATES (PER CENT PER ANNUM)

<i>Item/ Week ended</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>
1	<i>Mar. 31</i>	<i>Mar. 30</i>
	2	3
Bank rate	8.00	7.00
I.D.B.I. ¹	13.50	12.50
Prime Lending Rate ²	12.00-12.50	11.00-12.00
Deposit Rate ³	8.50-10.50	8.50-10.00
Call Money Rate ⁴ (Low/High)		
-Borrowings	6.00/25.00	6.80/13.50
-Lendings	7.90/25.00	7.00/13.50

1. Medium Term Lending Rate (MTLR).
2. Prime Lending Rate relates to five major Banks.
3. Deposit Rate relates to five major banks for term deposits of more than one year maturity.
4. Inter-Bank Call Money Rates as reported by DFHI.

As on March 30, 2001, Prime Lending Rate was 11.00 to 12.00 per cent while on March 31, 2000 it was 12.00 to 12.50. Deposit Rate ranged from 8.50 to 10.00 per cent as against 8.50 to 10.50 per cent in the same period of last year.

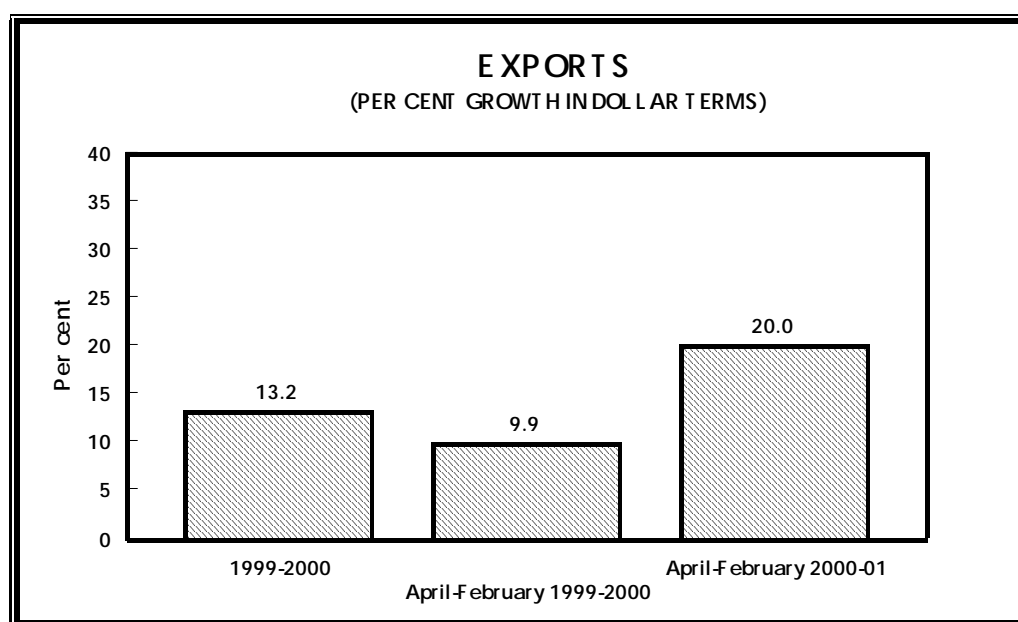


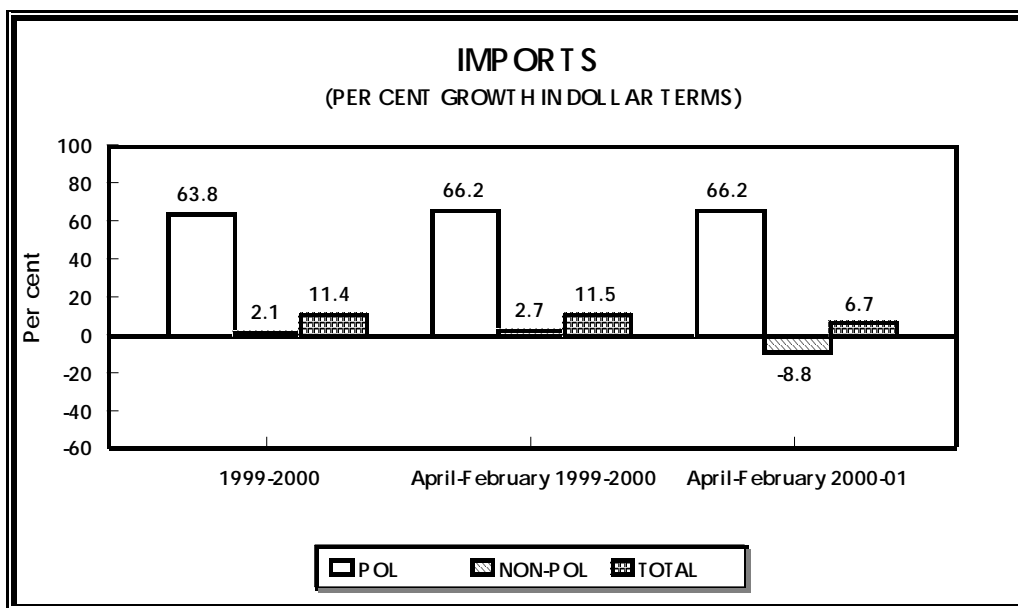
EXTERNAL SECTOR

FOREIGN TRADE

FOREIGN TRADE*						
Item	1998-99(R)	1999-00(P)	April-Feb.		April-Feb.	
			1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01
			<i>Rs. Crore</i>		<i>% change</i>	
Exports	139752	162925	142738	180425	13.2	26.4
Imports	178332	204583	184342	206752	15.0	12.2
POL	26919	45421	38041	66556	71.2	75.0
Non-POL	151413	159161	146301	140196	6.0	-4.2
Trade Balance	-38580	-41658	-41604	-26327	-	-
			<i>Million Dollar</i>		<i>% change</i>	
Exports	33218	37599	32946	39546	9.9	20.0
Imports	42389	47212	42548	45377	11.5	6.7
POL	6399	10482	8783	14596	66.2	66.2
Non-POL	35990	36730	33764	30781	2.7	-8.8
Trade Balance	-9171	-9613	-9602	-5832	-	-
* Figures are provisional						

Exports in dollar terms during **April-February, 2000-01** increased by 20.0 per cent as compared to an increase of 9.9 per cent during April-February, 1999-2000. Imports increased by 6.7 per cent as against an increase of 11.5 per cent in corresponding period last year. Imports of POL increased by 66.2 per cent same as in last year.

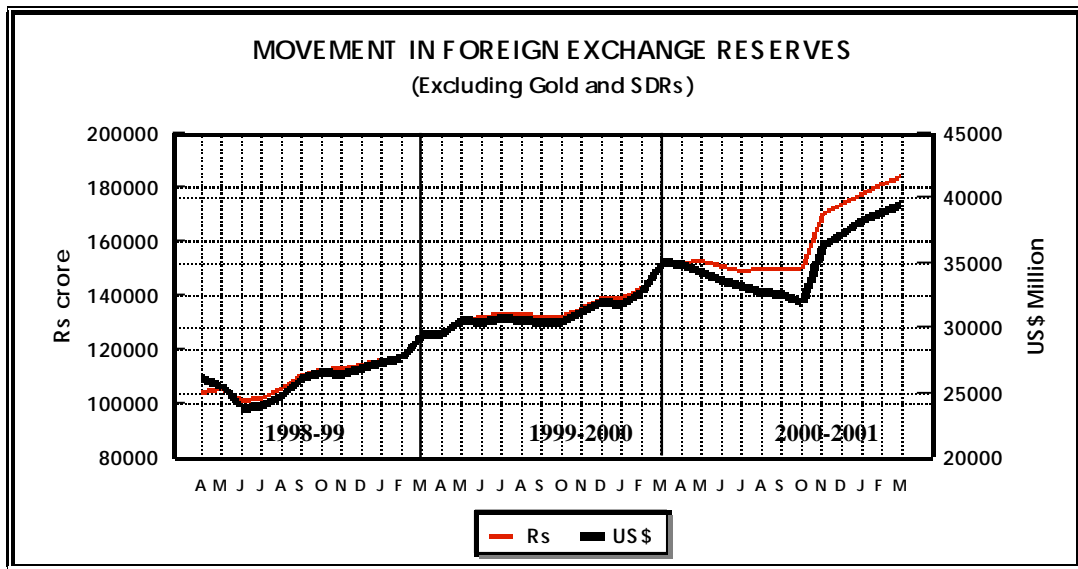




FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES (EXCLUDING GOLD AND SDRs)				
At the end of	Amount		Variation	
	Rs Crore	\$ Million	Rs Crore	\$ Million (Over last Year)
March, 1994	47287	15068	27147	8634
March, 1995	66006	20809	18719	5741
March, 1996	58446	17044	-7560	-3765
March, 1997	80368	22367	21922	5323
March, 1998	102507	25975	22139	3608
March, 1999	125412	29522	22905	3547
March, 2000	152924	35058	27512	5536
March, 2001	184482	39554	31558	4496
2000-2001			<i>(Over last Month)</i>	
April	152779	34993	-145	-65
May	153322	34392	543	-601
June	150901	33774	-2421	-618
July	149811	33299	-1090	-475
August	150163	32787	352	-512
September	150195	32602	32	-185
October	150185	32091	-10	-511
November	169962	36286	19777	4195
December	174207	37264	4245	978
January	178032	38361	3825	1097
February	181294	38896	3262	535
March*	184482	39554	3188	658
* Provisional				

Foreign Exchange Reserves (excluding Gold & SDRs), were \$ 39554 million at the end of 2000-2001. These reserves have increased by \$4496 million compared with March, 2000.



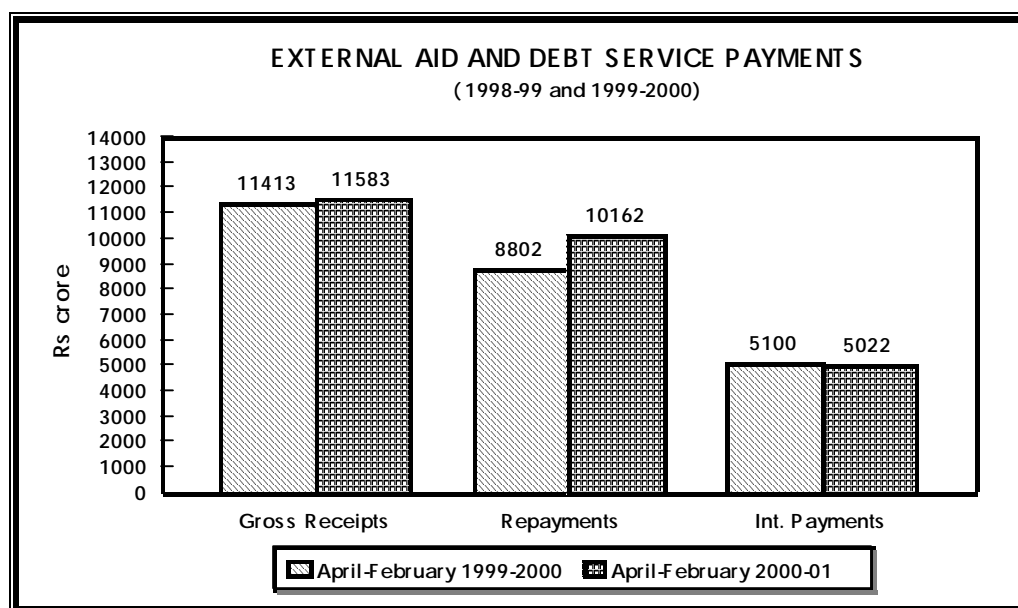
EXTERNAL AID RECEIPTS AND DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS*

(Rs Crore)

	Receipts		Repayment of Principal		Payment of Interest	
	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00	2000-01
Loans- Govt. A/C	7708	9342	7968	9132	4056	3878
Grants- Govt. A/C	842	666	-	-	-	-
Total	8550	10008	7968	9132	4056	3878
Non-Govt. loans	2863	1575	834	1030	1044	1144
Grand Total	11413	11583	8802	10162	5100	5022
	(2635)	(2540)				
Net Flows (net of repayment)	2611	1421	-	-	-	-
Net Transfers (net of repayment and interest payments)	-2489	-3601	-	-	-	-

* April-February
Note: Figures in brackets are in terms of million US \$

Gross external aid in **April-February, 2000-01** at Rs 11583 crore was 1.5 per cent higher than that of Rs 11413 crore in April-February, 1999-2000. Net aid flows (net of repayments) amounted to Rs 1421 crore as against Rs 2611 crore. Net aid transfers (net of repayments and interest payments) was Rs (-) 3601 crore as against Rs (-) 2489 crore in the corresponding period of last year.



EXCHANGE RATES

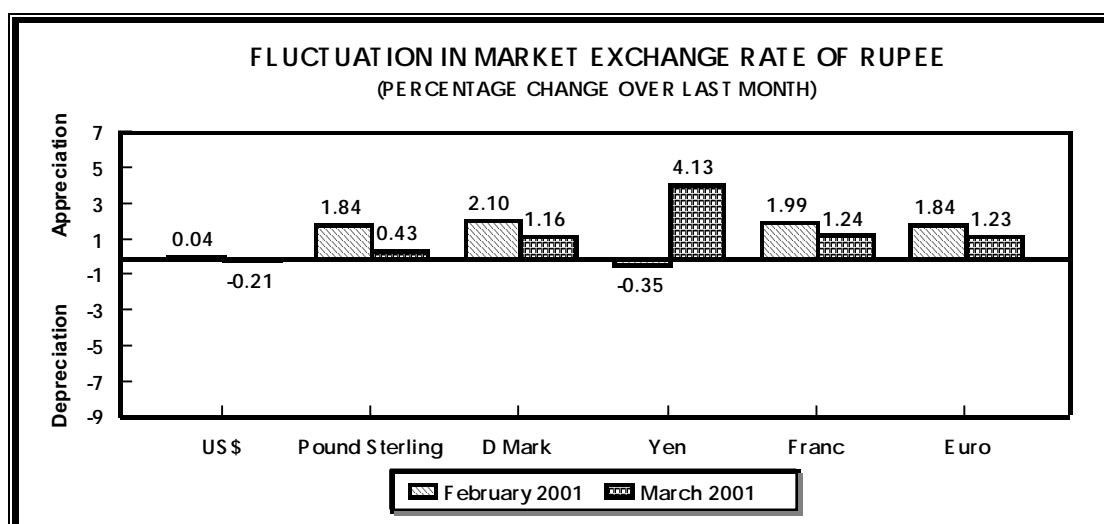
Rupees Per Unit of Foreign Currency

(Market Rate^a)

Month	US Dollar	Pound Sterling	Deutsche Mark*	Japanese Yen	French Franc*	Euro@	5 Country NEER	5 Country REER
							Base 1995=100	
March 1997	35.87	57.69	21.15	0.2923	6.29	-	97.74	104.88
March 1998	39.50	65.62	21.64	0.3067	6.45	-	90.42	103.19
March 1999	42.45	68.77	23.58	0.3548	7.03	46.24	83.14	101.17
March 2000	43.59	68.93	21.54	0.4208	6.42	42.08	81.75	99.39
2000-2001								
April	43.64	69.05	21.00	0.4142	6.26	41.30	81.79	99.90
May	43.98	66.40	20.34	0.4069	6.06	39.87	82.91	101.12
June	44.69	67.46	21.66	0.4209	6.46	42.41	80.52	97.94
July	44.78	67.59	21.44	0.4153	6.39	42.14	80.76	98.22
August	45.68	68.02	21.18	0.4230	6.31	41.38	79.97	97.82
September	45.89	65.76	20.61	0.4297	6.15	39.93	80.54	99.74
October	46.34	67.34	20.19	0.4276	6.02	39.71	80.14	99.76
November	46.78	66.73	20.44	0.4297	6.10	40.03	79.66	98.98
December	46.75	68.28	21.60	0.4173	6.44	41.87	79.04	97.87
January	46.54	68.93	22.35	0.3991	6.66	43.75	79.08	96.91
February	46.52	67.68	21.89	0.4005	6.53	42.96	79.51	98.17
March	46.62	67.39	21.64	0.3846	6.45	42.44	80.23	100.07

a. FEDAI Rates
 @ Came into operation w.e.f. 1.1.1999
 * The rates for these foreign currencies are the average of week end rates reported in the Financial Times, London since exchange rates for the currencies are not quoted in India from Jan. 1,1999.

The average market exchange rate of the Rupee during March, 2001 appreciated against Pound Sterling, Deutsche Mark, French Franc, Japanese Yen and Euro and depreciated against US Dollar compared to average market rate during February, 2001. Both NEER and REER moved up in March, 2001 as compared with the last month.



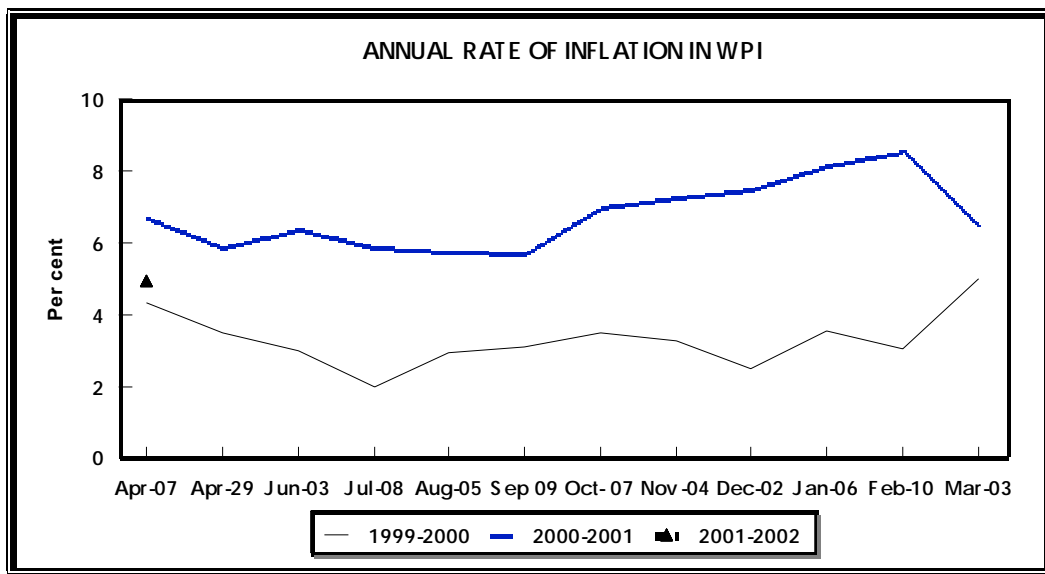
INFLATION

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX

WHOLESALE PRICES (Base 1993-94)					
Items/Groups	Weight (%)	Per cent Variation During			
		MONTH		YEAR (point to point)	
		(ending 7.4.2001)		(ending 7.4.2001) ^(P)	
		Last Year	Current Year	Last Year	Current Year
All Commodities	100.00	1.88	0.38	6.75	4.94
I Primary articles	22.03	1.75	1.43	3.83	0.18
II Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants	14.23	7.98	0.00	26.87	15.29
III Manufactured Products	63.75	0.22	0.07	2.89	3.60

P = Provisional

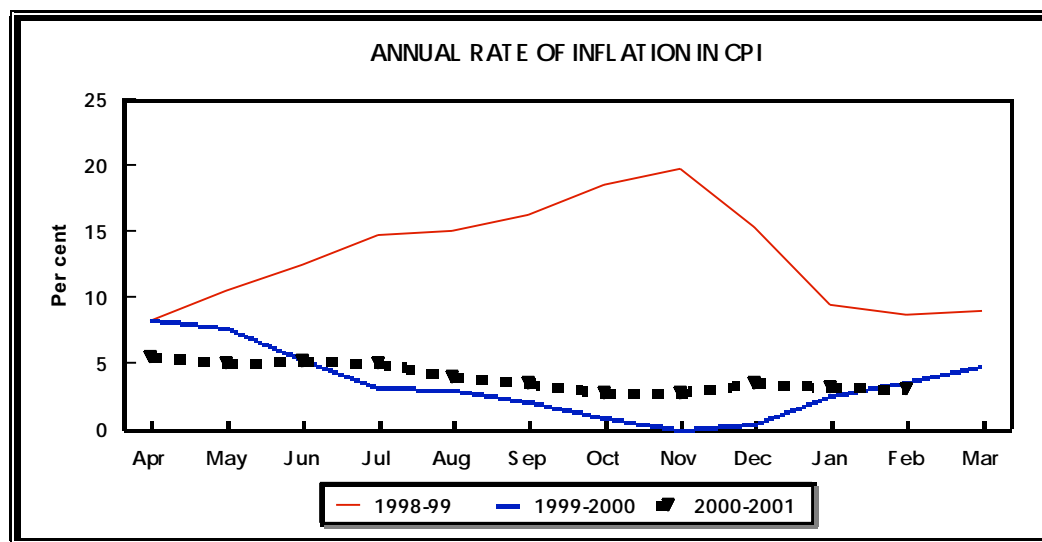
The annual rate of inflation based on **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** stood at 4.94 per cent for week ended April 7, 2001 compared to 6.75 per cent a year ago. This rate was contributed by an increase of 0.18 per cent in Primary articles, 15.29 per cent increase in Fuel, Power and Lubricants and 3.60 per cent increase in Manufactured Products as against an increase of 3.83 per cent, 26.87 per cent and 2.89 per cent respectively, on the corresponding date of last year.



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND INFLATION RATE			
	1999-2000 (Up to February, 2000)		2000-2001 (Up to February, 2001)
		<i>Per cent</i>	
Annual Inflation	3.6		3.0
Financial Year Inflation (%)	13.2		7.0
Last Month (% change)	-0.2		-0.4
Level of Index	430		443
Average of Index for 12 months ending February	426.17		443.25

The All India **Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)** for February, 2001 which stood at 443 declined by 0.4 per cent over the previous month's level and increased by 3.0 per cent over February, 2000.



EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE STATISTICS

(Lakhs)

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE STATISTICS				
	December		April-December	
	1999	2000*	1999-00	2000-01*
1. No. of applicants on Live Register at the end of the month	403.71	413.44	403.71	413.44
2. No. of registrations/re-registrations	4.99	4.90	46.72	48.26
3. Placements effected	0.25	0.16	1.65	1.31
		<i>(per cent)</i>		
4. Placements (3) as percentage of the registrations (2)	5.01	3.27	3.52	2.71
* Provisional				

The number of applicants on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges at the end of **December**, 2000 was 413.44 lakh, higher by 2.4 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The number of registrations during **December**, 2000 was lower by 1.8 per cent than in **December**, 1999. The Placements as percentage of registrations during **December**, 2000 was 3.27 as against 5.01 in **December**, 1999. The total placements effected during 2000-01 (April-December) was 1.31 lakh as compared to 1.65 lakh in the corresponding period of 1999-2000.