

- (iv) Discontinuation of new deposits under FCON;
- (v) New and tighten guidelines for Euro issues by Indian firms;
- (vi) Encouragement to corporate sector to repay expensive external debt; and
- (vii) Liberalisation of limits and procedures for Indian investment abroad, to facilitate productive use of foreign exchange and encourage formation of export linkages.

(c) and (d). The stock of foreign exchange reserves at any point of time is the result of transactions of both current and capital nature over the years. Foreign investment inflows were, however, the major factor behind the surge in capital inflows to the country from 1993-94. The details are as follows :

(US \$ million)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1. Direct Investment	341	620	1311
2. Portfolio Investment	92	3493	3367
Total	433	4113	4678

(e) Indirect investment of foreign capital in the form of portfolio investments during the post-liberalisation period have been large but still account for only around 30 per cent of our gross reserves. Instead of using much capital in financing the imbalances in the external transactions, these have been largely absorbed in the form of increasing the reserves of the country.

Assistance to North-Eastern States for Civil Aviation

5397. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount allocated to the Government of North-Eastern States State-wise including Assam for the development of Civil Aviation during the Eighth Five Year Plan, till-date, scheme-wise and State-wise; and
- (b) the details of development works undertaken in this regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Airports Authority of India has undertaken development of Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Jorhat, Tezpur, Lilabari, Imphal, Dimapur and Agartala airports in the North Eastern States.

The total allocation made during the VIII Plan is Rs. 122 crores for development of airports in North Eastern States.

In addition, Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 7 crores and Rs. 10 crores to the respective State Plans for construction of new airports at Tura in Meghalaya and Lengpui in Mizoram.

Import of Scientific Instruments

5398. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the duty free import of certain types of scientific instruments, which are not manufactured in the country are allowed to the Governments research and education institutions;

(b) if so, the incentives given for the development of the same indigenously;

(c) whether duty free import of components is allowed to the indigenous manufacturers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the rate of customs duty is higher on imported raw materials and components than the duty leviable on finished products like scientific instruments;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to provide special incentives to the manufacturers of scientific instruments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (g). The current Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, as amended, permits import of all capital goods and instruments freely. As regards exemption of Customs duty, this is decided by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, on the recommendation of the Administrative Ministry.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance

5399. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries which provided funds to our country as assistance/grant during the last year alongwith the amount given, separately and the amount paid by the Union Government as interest thereon;

(b) the names of the countries to which India has given funds in the form of help/assistance/grant during the last three years and the amount of assistance provided, separately; and

(c) the amount of interest recovered therefrom during above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Information is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.