

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:295

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009

RBI'S GOLD RESERVES

Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Patel Shri Devji;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the break up of Reserve Bank of India (RBI's) foreign exchange reserves alongwith share of each category of assets during each of the last three years;
- (b) the reasons for decrease/increase in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) foreign securities in general and gold reserves in particular;
- (c) whether RBI is planning to buy gold; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b): The break up of the country's foreign exchange reserves during the last three years is indicated below.

US\$ billions

Year in IMF	FCA Exchange	Gold Reserves	SDRs	RTP	Total Foreign
2006-07 (96.36)	191.9 (3.41)	6.8 (0.001)	0.002 (0.24)	0.469	199.2
2007-08 (96.61)	299.2 (3.24)	10.0 (0.006)	0.018 (0.14)	0.436	309.7
2008-09 (95.79)	241.4 (3.80)	9.6 (0.0004)	0.001 (0.39)	0.981	252.0

Source: Reserve Bank of India. Figures in parenthesis indicate the share in the total Foreign Exchange Reserves Note: FCA: Foreign Currency Assets, SDRs: Special Drawing Rights; RTP in IMF; Reserve Tranche Position in IMF, FCA excludes US 0.250 billion invested in foreign currency denominated bonds issued by IIFC (UK) since March 20, 2009

The level of foreign exchange reserves is largely the outcome of the Reserve Bank's intervention in the foreign exchange market to smoothen exchange rate volatility and valuation changes due to movement of US dollar against other major currencies of the world.

(c) & (d): The Reserve Bank of India has concluded the purchase of 200 metric tonnes of gold from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), under the IMF's limited gold sales programme. This was done as part of the Reserve Bank of India's foreign exchange reserves management operation. The purchase was an official sector off-market transaction and was executed over a two week period during October 19-30, 2009 at market based prices.