

At end March 2011, out of the total foreign currency assets of US\$ 274.3 billion, US\$ 142.1 billion was invested in securities, US\$ 126.9 billion was deposited with other central banks, BIS and the IMF and US \$ 5.3 billion was placed with the External Assets Managers (EAMs).

Impact of fuel price hike on inflation

2995. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steep hike in prices of diesel, kerosene and cooking gas announced in June this year has driven the inflation into double digit zone; and

(b) if so, what was the real effect of the fuel price hike in the increase of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per revised WPI for May, 2011, in June over May, 2011, the overall wholesale price index is calculated to have risen by 0.39 per cent as a result of a direct impact of the price hike in diesel, kerosene and cooking gas (LPG) (by 2.28 %, 4.58% and 3.65% respectively). Overall WPI inflation remained in single digit. The detailed information is given in Table below:

Commodities	Weight (%)	WPI May-2011 (Final)	WPI Jun-2011 (Provisional)	% increase in index (Jun/ May) (Provisional)	Inflation (y-o-y) In May-11 (Final)	Inflation (y-o-y) In Jun-11 (Provisional)
All Commodities	100.00	152.4	153.0	0.39	9.56	9.44
Diesel	4.67	153.6	157.1	2.28	-	-
Kerosene	0.74	135.3	141.5	4.58	-	-
LPG	0.91	128.9	133.6	3.65	-	-

External debt

2996. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's external debt has risen by 17.2 percent by the end of March, 2011;