

INDIAN ECONOMY – HIGHLIGHTS OF PERFORMANCE

GDP: The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the third quarter (October-December) or Q3 of 2017-18, both at constant (2011-12) and current prices. As per the report, GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q3 of 2017-18 is estimated at Rs. 32.50 lakh crore in Q3 of 2016-17, showing a growth rate of 7.2 per cent. Quarterly GVA at Basic Price at constant (2011-12) prices for Q3 of 2017-18 is estimated at Rs. 30.10 lakh crore, showing a growth rate of 6.7 per cent over the corresponding quarter of previous year. At the same time, the CSO has released the second advance estimates of GDP for fiscal 2017-18 as per which

- Real GDP in 2017-18 is likely to attain a level of Rs. 130.04 lakh crore, as against the First Revised Estimate of GDP for the year 2016-17 of Rs. 121.96 lakh crore, thereby recording a growth of 6.6 per cent as compared to the growth rate of 7.1 per cent in 2016-17.
- Real GVA is anticipated to increase from Rs. 112.48 lakh crore in 2016-17 to Rs. 119.64 lakh crore in 2017-18. Anticipated growth of real GVA at basic prices in 2017-18 is 6.4 per cent as against 7.1 per cent in 2016-17.
- The sectors which are likely to register growth rate of over 7 per cent in 2017-18 are 'public administration, defence and other services', 'trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting', 'electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services' and 'financial, real estate and professional services'. The growth in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing', 'mining and quarrying', 'manufacturing', and 'construction' is estimated to be 3 per cent, 3 per cent, 5.1 per cent and 4.3 per cent respectively.

Industrial Production: Provisional CSO data show that the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) under new series was up by 7.5 per cent yoy in January 2018 and by 4.1 per cent during April-January 2017-18, encouraged by stable growth in most of the leading sectors.

Inflation: The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, stood at 2.48 per cent (provisional) for February 2018 (over February 2017) as compared to 2.84 per cent (provisional) for the previous month. The build-up inflation rate in the financial year so far was 2.3 per cent compared to a build-up rate of 4.92 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year. The all India CPI inflation rate (combined) for February 2018 stood at 4.44 per cent, compared to 5.07 per cent of the previous month.

Infrastructure Growth: The yoy growth rate of the eight core infrastructure industries was up by 6.7 per cent January 2018 and by 4.3 per cent during April-January 2017-18, encouraged by growth in most sectors except crude oil and fertilizers.

Trade: Provisional figures from DGCI&S show that during April-February 2017-18, in dollar terms, overall exports were up by 11.02 per cent while overall imports were up by 21.04 per cent, both on yoy basis. During the same period, oil imports were valued at US \$98002.25 million which was 26.92 per cent higher yoy while non-oil imports were valued at US \$318863.39 million which was 19.34 per cent higher yoy. Overall trade deficit for April-February 2017-18 is estimated at US \$85704.73 million as compared to US \$44381.73 million during April-February 2016-17