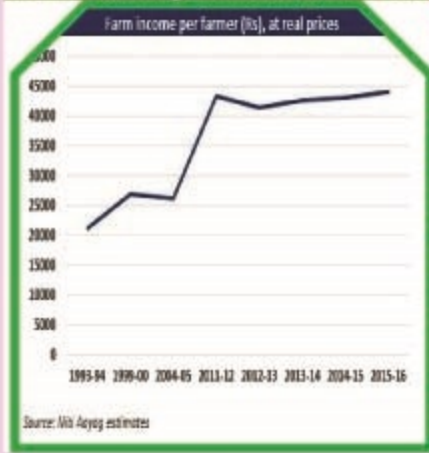


1. Doubling farmers' income by 2022 a challenge :



- ❖ The programme of Doubling Farmers' Income was announced in budget speech on February 29, 2016 with the targeted year for doubling the farmers income is 2022.
- ❖ Despite measures to boost crop yields and productivity, per capita income of farmers has not improved.
- ❖ In fact, the gap has widened with farm income now one fourth the size of non-farm income, as compared to one-third some years back.
- ❖ Past strategy of the agriculture focused primarily on raising agricultural output and improving food security. The net result has been a 45 p.c. increase in per person food production, which made India self-sufficient in food **at aggregate level**.

2. Money Market : Reference date : 25 January 2018

Bank rate	6.25	Base rate	8.95-9.45
Repo Rate	6.00	S L R	19.5
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75	Term Deposit Rate	6.00 - 6.75 >1 Yr
C R R	4.00	Call Money (wtd.Avg)	5.90
Marginal Standing Facility	6.25	CBLO (Wtd.Avg)	5.94

Source : Reserve Bank of India

Source: global-rates.com	Date>	25 Jan	1-Week	1-month	6-Month	1-Year
On US \$ (%)	LIBOR>	1.44	1.47	1.57	1.95	2.24

3. Foreign Exchange Rate (Rs) :

Category	22 Jan	23 Jan	24 Jan	25 Jan	26 Jan	% Ch.
US \$	63.09	63.77	63.54	63.50	NA	0.65
Euro	78.12	78.22	78.45	79.07	NA	1.22

Source : RBI

4. Stock Exchange Indices :

Category	22 Jan	23 Jan	24 Jan	25 Jan	26 Jan	% Ch.
BSE	35798	36140	36162	36050	NA	0.70
Nifty	10966	11084	11086	11070	NA	0.95

Source : BSE, NSE

5. Gold & Silver Prices (Rs) :

Kolkata Prices	22 Jan	23 Jan	24 Jan	25 Jan	26 Jan	% Ch.
Gold 24 Carrots /10gms	32301	32312	32421	32912	NA	1.89
Silver / kg	42000	42000	42200	42200	NA	0.48

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6. Crude Oil Price: US\$/Barrel :

Date>	19 Jan	22 Jan	23 Jan	24 Jan	25 Jan	Weekly
Price>	66.48	66.89	67.32	67.61	68.46	NA

Source: OPEC

7. Performance of the private corporate business sector during the second quarter of 2017-18

Reserve Bank released data on performance of the private corporate sector during the second quarter of 2017-18 relating to abridged financial results of 2,701 listed non-government non-financial (NGNF) companies for Q2:2017-18.

Highlights :

As compared with the position in Q1:2017-18

Sales

- ❖ The manufacturing sector witnessed an improvement in sales growth (y-o-y) in Q2:2017-18, led primarily by industries like chemical and chemical products; pharmaceuticals and medicines; iron and steel; and motor vehicles and other transport equipment.
- ❖ The information technology (IT) sector also recorded improvement in sales growth.
- ❖ Sales of the services (non-IT) sector slipped back into the contraction zone after temporary revival in the previous quarter mainly due to the poor performance of real estate; hotels and restaurants; and telecommunication companies.

Expenditure

- ❖ The manufacturing companies got some respite from input cost pressures as evidenced from the moderation in cost of raw material growth; however, the staff cost increased at a higher rate.

Operating profit

- ❖ Operating profits of the manufacturing sector recorded a healthy growth after contraction in the previous quarter.
- ❖ Position of the IT sector also improved but the services (other than IT) sector continued to make lower operating profit.

Interest

- ❖ **Interest expenses increased significantly** in Q2:2017-18 at the aggregate level and for the manufacturing sector.
- ❖ Within the manufacturing sector, the cement and cement products and textile companies reported significant rise in interest expenses growth in line with the increase in overall debt levels of these companies.
- ❖ Higher profit led to increase in the interest coverage ratio of the manufacturing sector. The interest coverage ratio for the services (other than IT) sector worsened due to continued poor performance of the telecommunication sector.

Net profit

- ❖ Higher interest expenses and tax provision together with lack of support from other/non-operating income resulted in **lower net profits for the manufacturing sector (y-o-y)**.

Pricing power

- ❖ Profit margin improved for the manufacturing sector.
- ❖ **Net profit margin turned negative for the services (non-IT) sector** due to overall losses reported by the telecommunication sector.

Notes:

Data pertaining to Q2-2016-17 and Q1-2017-18 are also presented in the tables to enable comparison. The data can be accessed at https://dbie.rbi.org.in/DBIE/dbie.rbi?site=statistics#12_42.

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