

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 15
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

FOREX RESERVES

15 Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether for the first time Forex reserves have crossed US\$ 700 billion as of last week of September, 2024;
- (b) whether India has 4th largest Forex reserves after China, Japan and Switzerland;
- (c) whether increasing Forex reserves help the country to be in a comfortable position in the contemporary geopolitical scenario in the world; and
- (d) the status of Gold reserves in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

- (a) The Foreign Exchange Reserves (FER) of the country crossed USD 700 billion mark for the first time during the week ended on September 27, 2024 standing at USD 704.88 billion.
- (b) As per official reserve assets data available on IMF website, as at end September 2024 India had 4th largest forex reserves after China, Japan, and Switzerland.
- (c) For almost all economies, whether developed, emerging, or developing, holding prudent reserves, in conjunction with sound policies and fundamentals, can bring significant benefits. They reduce the likelihood of balance-of-payments crises, help preserve economic and financial stability against pressures on exchange rates and disorderly market conditions and create space for policy autonomy.
- (d) As at end-September 2024, the Reserve Bank of India held 854.73 metric tonnes of gold out of which 510.46 metric tonnes is held domestically. The total value of the gold holdings is USD 65.75 billion as at end-September 2024.
