

External assistance

6.46 Gross external assistance inflows (both government and non-government accounts) increased by nearly US \$ 0.34 billion to US \$3.31 billion in 2001-02. Net inflows were higher by around US \$ 0.7 billion due to a lower principal repayment of around US \$2.2 billion during 2001-02. Disbursement of non-government loans was also higher at US \$0.52 billion in 2001-02 compared with US \$0.36 billion during 2000-01. Non-government loans worth more than US \$0.71 billion were pre-

paid during 2001-02 principally on account of relatively lower interest rates prevailing in the domestic market. During the first half of the current financial year, gross disbursements, on government account, were US \$ 0.87 billion, as compared with US \$ 1.24 billion in the corresponding previous period. Given the higher level of repayments in April-September 2002, net disbursements have also been lower at US \$ (-)0.57 billion during the first half of 2002-03, compared with US \$ 0.23 billion during first six months of 2001-02.