

London has an office in New Delhi. A few Canadian companies have used this organization as a source for funding.

Other Regional Organizations - There are regional funds, especially in the Middle East, which provide financing for projects in India such as the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). A few Japanese organizations such as the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund also provide financing.

Export Credit Agencies - At times, export transactions require a truly international package or participation. For example, the electrical machinery for a power plant may come from a third country. In this regard, financing may be available from the concerned export credit agency (EDC's counterpart) to cover that component of the overall project.

Private Investment Funds - Several investment funds have been floated for India by reputable investment houses in the United States, the United Kingdom and in the far east. These funds primarily invest in well-established Indian firms, which may use the proceeds to pursue new projects.

Commercial Banks - Private commercial banks provide various types of financing for transactions in India. Prospects are bright for private commercial bank financing in various capacities. There are 51 private banks in India, including 24 foreign banks such as the Chase Manhattan and the Bank of Mauritius. This number is likely to grow as the Reserve Bank of India has started to grant licences to new private banks. One Canadian bank, the Bank of Nova Scotia, has opened two branches and a number of other Canadian banks are actively considering the market.

Indian Stock Markets - The 22 stock markets in India have been buoyant with the inflow of foreign funds over the past three years. There are more than 6500 companies listed, for a total market capitalization of US\$139 billion. The Regulatory authorities have been removing obstacles for the smooth functioning of the stock markets while promulgating new legislation to protect the integrity of the system. In other words, the system is in transition. However, the significant inflow of foreign funds into the Indian financial system has significantly improved the possibility of accessing local funding.