

SECTION - II

Q. 4. Case Study

(15)

The European Monetary System (EMS) refers to an arrangement established in 1979, whereby members of the European Economic Community (now the European Union) agreed to link their currencies to encourage monetary stability in Europe. The EMS aimed to create a stable exchange rate for easier trade and cooperation among European countries through an Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM). The ERM was based on the European Currency Unit (ECU) – a currency unit composed of a basket of 12 European currencies weighted by gross domestic product (GDP).

The European Monetary System mainly relied upon the ECU and the existing exchange rate mechanism then. Exchange rates were only allowed to deviate within a certain range from the fixed central point, which was determined by the ECU.

In the EMS, exchange rate fluctuations of member countries' currencies were limited to 2.25% from the fixed central point, which was determined by the European Economic Community.

The European Monetary System aimed to achieve various macroeconomic goals:

Encouraging trade within Europe

Exchange rate stability among trading members

Controlled inflation within Europe

The EMS ensured currency stability in Europe during times of international market volatility.

The EMS was considered an important step towards the establishment of the EU and the single market in Europe.

The EMS promoted political and economic unity across Europe at a pivotal time in European history.

Fixed exchange rates affected different members of the EMS in different ways, which were not beneficial to all economies. It became evident in the 1992 crisis.

The EMS promoted a common monetary policy; therefore, raising or decreasing interest rates affected all economies differently – just like the exchange rate system.

Q.1. Describe the EMS with a brief history.

Q.2. What were the objectives of EMS?

Q.3. Explain the merits and demerits of EMS.

Q. 5. Answer the following:

(10)

a) Explain the three variations of 'Fixed Exchange rate System' in detail.

OR

b) What is Purchasing Power Principle? Explain the 'Law of One Price' on which the tenet of PPP is based.