

(c) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures from time to time. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. The balance of payments position during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 remained comfortable. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India monitor the position constantly and steps/measures are taken, as and when necessary, to make the BOP position of the country comfortable.

Outstanding Dues Towards Exempted PF Account of Jessop and Company Ltd.

*587. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to answer of Starred Question 307 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th December 1999, and state :

(a) the position of outstanding dues towards exempted PF Account of Jessop and Company Ltd. as on 31st March, 2000;

(b) the arrangement made, so far, for liquidation of dues as per the statement made in response to the aforesaid question;

(c) whether the revival scheme has been recast, as stated in the above reply; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) The total outstanding P.F. dues of Jessop as on 31-3-2000 is Rs. 47.42 crore. The problems still beset the Company in generating cash flow as envisaged in the revival scheme. However, through the intervention of the Ministry, the company has received orders for a lot of 397.5 Four Wheeler Units (FWUs) from Ministry of Railways for the year 2000-01. Discussions have been initiated with the banks with a view to place the revival scheme on the sounder footing. Meantime, Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to go into the issue of outstanding statutory dues of all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) including Jessops with a view to evolving appropriate arrangement for liquidating these dues.