

the Bank's poverty focussed operations.

India along with other developing countries has welcomed the efforts to accentuate and enhance the poverty focus of the Bank's operations. We have stressed that poverty is the single greatest challenge that confronts the international economic community. The recommendations of the Task Force are likely to be considered by Bank Management in the coming months. At present the extent of funding for anti-poverty projects and the total loan to be provided for such projects to developing countries has not been determined.

Indo Pak Trade

2682. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Pak Joint-Commission has taken initiative in the matter of bilateral trade;

(b) whether the experts have made suggestions for new openings and dynamism;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is proposed to associate the representatives of private sector from both the countries in the deliberations of Indo-Pak Joint-Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Bilateral trade issues are discussed by the Sub-Commission on trade constituted under the Joint Commission.

(b) and (c). Suggestions have been made in various fora including deliberations

of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission for unrestricted and non-discriminatory two way trade between India and Pakistan.

(d) and (e). No such suggestion has been discussed.

Outstanding Amount of Central Excise and Customs Duty

2683. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount of the Central Excise and Customs Duty outstanding at the end of March, 1987 as compared to the amount outstanding at the end of March, 1986;

(b) the percentage of recovery of the outstanding dues and what is the percentage of loss of revenue due to non-realisation of the dues on account of excise and customs duty during 1986 and 1987; and

(c) the reasons for the low percentage of recovery of the Central Excise and Customs Duty and non-recovery of the dues stating the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) The estimated amount of Central Excise duty and Customs duty arising out of confirmed demands, outstanding at the end of March, 1987 was Rs. 617. 89 crores as against Rs. 639.31 crores at the end of March, 1986.

(b) Approximately 30% of total outstandings (including those that had arisen during the year itself) were realised in 1986-87. Non realisation of arrears cannot be termed as loss of revenue. However, arrears as at the end of March, 1987 were only