

not appropriate to think of such merger when the 12 monthly average Consumer Price index was falling and Government had taken measures to check the price rise. In any case, the main object of merging a portion of D.A. with pay is to improve the pensionary benefits, in keeping with the rise in prices. Following the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, Government have sanctioned five instalments of relief to pensioners, and to this extent they have already been insulated from the increase in the consumer price index. Merger of D.A. with pay would, therefore, confer additional benefits on pensioners, and may not be justified in the present circumstances. After discussion, it was agreed that the matter be deferred for the time being.

**Search at the Calcutta premises of a former Zamindar family**

**\*175. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO:**  
**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:**

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of the recent search at the South Calcutta premises of a former zamindar's family, documents relating to property worth Rs. 30 lakhs in a foreign country have been recovered by the Income-tax authorities; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Search and seizure operations were recently conducted by the Income-tax authorities at Calcutta at the premises of a former Zamindar in earstwhile East Pakistan. As a result of these operations, it has come to light that the said zamindar had claimed approximately Rs. 24.4 lakhs from the

Custodian of Enemy Properties in Bombay for loss of property in former East Pakistan and has already received a sum of approximately Rs. 10 lakhs from the Custodian.

**Recruitment in R.B.I., Nagpur**

**\*176. SHRI S. W. DHABE:**  
**SHRI N. K. BHATT:**

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of persons who were recruited by the Nagpur branch of the Reserve Bank of India as typists, coin-note examiners and Grade II clerks from the 1st January, 1973 to the 30th June, 1976;

(b) whether recruitment of the above mentioned staff was made by inviting applications through advertisements in newspapers or from the Employment Exchange; and

(c) what is the number of persons from among the staff so recruited, who are (i) local residents and (ii) residents of other States?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the number of candidates recruited in the Nagpur Office of the Bank during the period 1st January, 1973 to 30th June, 1976 is as under:—

Clerks Grade II Coin-note examiners	
Grade II (Combined Cadre)	76
Typists	9

(b) Application for post in common cadre of Clerks Grade II/Coin Note Examiners Grade II and that for Typists were invited by the Bank through advertisement in the press. The Employment Exchanges were also notified of the vacancies.

(c) All those who have been recruited, except one in the cadre of

typists, are residents of recruitment area allotted to Nagpur Office of the Reserve Bank.

**Loss in production in public sector undertakings in Kerala due to power cut**

\*177. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the loss in production in public sector undertakings of the Central Government located in Kerala due to the recent power cut?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

The Central Government Public Sector Undertakings in Kerala suffered a total loss of Rs. 2.16 crores in production due to the recent power cut imposed by the Kerala State Electricity Board during June—July, 1976. Details of the production loss suffered by each public enterprise is as under:—

Name of the Undertaking	Loss in production (Rs. lakhs)
(i) Cochin Shipyard Ltd. .	0.32
(ii) Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd. . . . .	144.89
(iii) Hindustan Latex Ltd. .	1.00
(iv) Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. . . . .	18.65
(v) Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. . . . .	5.06
(vi) Indian Rare Earths Ltd.	9.79
(vii) Modern Bakeries (India) Ltd. . . . .	0.35
(viii) National Textile Corporation Ltd. . . . .	35.81

N.B.—1 Cashew Corporation of India Ltd. is a service organisation and recent power cut had no effect on its activities.

2. There was no loss in production in Cochin Refineries Ltd. due to recent power cut imposed by Kerala State Electricity Board as it was exempted from the same.

**Commercial relations with S.E.A. countries**

\*178. SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR CHETTRI;  
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN;  
SHRI B. RACHAIAH;  
SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government to improve commercial relations with the neighbouring South East Asian Countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken to improve commercial relations with the neighbouring South East Asian countries include trade agreements, visits by delegations, organising exclusive Indian trade fairs/exhibitions, participation in international fairs/exhibitions in these countries, industrial collaboration, etc.

**Handloom projects**

\*179. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the progress so far made in the Handloom Intensive Development projects