

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) whether the Central Government have also directed that the economy measures should not result in retrenchment of staff?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) to (d). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library See No. LT-6748/66*].

Raids on Business Houses in Calcutta

***416. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy :**
Shri Hem Barua :
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamat :
Shri Nath Pai :

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state :

(a) whether soon after assumption of office, he addressed a meeting of the Income-tax and Customs Officials in Calcutta and advised them to go slow in regard to the raids of private business houses and other concerns in the city ;

(b) the number of raids made by these Authorities in Calcutta between the months of August and December, 1965 and the number of raids made during the period from January to June, 1966; and

(c) in how many cases, his permission was sought to raid the houses of some prominent Congress leaders and businessmen and whether such permission was granted ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat) : (a) The Finance Minister had occasion to refer to raids generally in the course of a discussion with Income-Tax and Customs Officials in Calcutta soon after assumption of office. It is not a fact that he advised the officials to go slow in regard to the raids in private business houses and other concerns in the city or in regard to any raids at all. What he advised them was that while all proper cases should be pursued vigorously with all the rigours of the law

before undertaking searches the Departments concerned should give proper consideration to the reliability of the information on the basis of which the searches were made so that harassment of innocent persons and consequent embarrassment of Government and unnecessary spending of Government funds might be minimised.

(b) The total number of searches conducted by the Customs and Income Tax officials in Calcutta during the two periods were 349 and 163 respectively.

(c) Under the law, authorisation for search is issued, in respect of Income-tax, by the Commissioner of Income-tax, and in respect of Customs, by the Assistant Collector of Customs. The field officers empowered to issue such authorisation may, when they consider it necessary, seek the advice of their superior officers or of the respective Boards of Revenue. The authorisation of the Minister is not necessary and no case of proposed search was referred to the Minister from the Income-Tax and Customs Departments during the period August, 1965 to June, 1966. Whether in regard to prominent Congress leaders and businessmen or any one at all.

Officer's Tours Abroad

***417. Shri Buta Singh :**
Shri Narasimha Reddy :

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Officers who went abroad during January-July, 1966 and for what purpose ; and

(b) the total amount which Government spent for this purpose ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.