

# ***Dr M wants probe on blackout***

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants an investigation into the cause of the Tuesday blackout as manufacturers start counting their losses.

The Prime Minister who returned from Britain yesterday said steps must be taken to prevent a recurrence.

"Actually this should not have happened," he said. "We need to know the causes so that action can be taken to prevent a recurrence."

The blackout had affected most states in Peninsular Malaysia, causing massive losses to the business community.

Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers executive director Tan Keok Yin estimated yesterday factory operators lost

By **WONG SAI WAN, LEE KAR YEAN and SYED AZHAR**

"tens of millions" of ringgit during the blackout.

He said the losses were in terms of goods output especially food, chemical, building materials and damage to machinery.

Industries in Negri Sembilan are still counting their losses.

The Shell and Esso refineries in Port Dickson reported their plants would not be able to resume full production for at least two more days.

The Shell Refinery manager, Mr Fran de Koning, estimated the company's losses to be between \$2 million and \$5 million.

Esso refinery manager Dale Boston said the plant could not process between 150,000 to 180,000

barrels of crude oil.

In Seremban, Motorola Semiconductor Sdn Bhd managing director Mr K. Kanapathi said the losses could not be ascertained until reports from all departments were compiled.

Another electronics factory, TDK (M) Sdn Bhd in Nilai, reported it lost about 12 hours and that its production was behind schedule.

Meanwhile, State Water Supply Department director Dr Akhbar Johari said there was still a problem supplying water to the whole district.

He said a couple of the treatment plant's instrument were damaged.

"We hope to resume full supply in two days," he added.