

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). There is at present no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

Installation of Metal Detectors at Palam and other Airports

*886. **SHRI B. S. BHAURA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are installing metal detectors at Palam and some other airports as part of anti-hijack measures ;

(b) whether the present method of searching the passengers before they board the aircraft would continue after this new-device is installed ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Metal detectors are essentially electronic devices which assist in quickly identifying persons carrying metallic items but cannot be substituted for frisking or searching. In order to ensure 100% security check against carriage of fire arms, explosives, etc. by passengers, the physical check is essential.

Lead Bank Scheme

*887. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the 'Lead Bank' Scheme ;

(b) how much money Government propose to spend on this scheme and where ; and

(c) the likely outcome of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). Salient features of the Lead Bank Scheme were explained in the course of the answer given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2541 on 18th

June, 1971. However, these are again indicated briefly in a statement laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Under the 'Lead Bank Scheme' formulated by the Reserve Bank in December, 1969, all the public sector banks and a few banks in the private sector have been allotted districts in the country, mostly in a cluster or clusters, in which they are expected to play the lead role to bring about intensive development of banking on a planned basis. The Scheme was formulated in the wake of the recommendations of the Study Group of the National Credit Council set up in October, 1968 under the Chairmanship of late Dr. D. R. Gadgil for adoption of an "area approach" to development

2. The banks are expected to act as catalytic agents to initiate and promote developmental activity in the districts allotted to them in collaboration with other financial institutions and agencies. For this purpose, they are first required to conduct quick and broad surveys of the districts identifying centres where bank offices could be established and locating areas and sectors urgently in need of bank services. The lead bank would have no monopoly of banking service in a district and the opening of few branches is expected to be done by all banks acting in concert.

3. The responsibility of taking up the lead role for development of banking under the Scheme is primarily that of the banks concerned. There is no proposal for any expenditure by the Government on the Scheme.

Strike Notice Served by Gujarat Port and Dock Workers' Federation

*888. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gujarat Port and Dock Workers' Federation has served strike notice on Government ;

(b) if so, what are the main demands put forward by the Federation ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to avert the strike ?