

(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 ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Tax Evasion by Birlas and others in 1969-70

*889. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was an allegation of tax evasion against the Birlas in the year 1969-70 ;

(b) the names of other monopoly houses against whom similar allegations were made ; and

(c) the specification taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) During the year 1969-70 some allegations of tax evasion by assessees connected with Birlas have come to the notice of the Income-tax Department.

(b) Allegations of tax evasion are received in respect of individuals, firms and companies and not in respect of any group as such. Compilation of information in respect of various individuals, firms and companies connected with various groups mentioned in the Monopolies Commission Report will require considerable time and labour. If information is required in respect of any specific group the same can be obtained and furnished.

(c) The specific allegations in the three cases at (a) above are being investigated under the supervision of the D. I. (Inv.). The investigations are in progress.

Facilities for Passengers at Kanpur Airport

*890. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the airport at Kanpur needs complete renovation ;

(b) whether the present airport can hardly

accommodate the passengers ;

(c) whether minimum facilities do not exist for passengers there ; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve the facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SARAJINI MAHISHI): (a) and (b). The existing terminal building built by Indian Airlines in 1964 at the Kanpur (Chakeri) aerodrome belonging to the Ministry of Defence is inadequate for present day requirements.

(c) Fans, lights and chairs and a toilet have been provided.

(d) Provision has been made in the current Five Year Plan of the Civil Aviation Department for construction of a new passenger lounge for 200 persons at the aerodrome.

Response for Group Gratuity-Cum-Life Insurance Scheme

*891. **SHRI S. R. DAMANI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the response that group gratuity-cum-life insurance scheme has evoked so far and how it differs from the traditional scheme ;

(b) the areas already covered or proposed to be covered by it ; and

(c) the steps being taken to popularise this scheme in all establishments employing organised manpower ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (c). The Group Gratuity-cum-Life Assurance Scheme was introduced by the L. I. C. in the year 1962 and as on 31st March, 1971, Group Gratuity-cum-Life Assurance Scheme has been introduced in 179 institutions. The Group Gratuity-cum-Life Assurance Scheme is a scheme of insurance designed for the purpose of funding retirement gratuity and provision of insurance protection to the employees in the event of premature death. While the normal gratuity benefit payable on death is related to the actual service put in by the employee upto the date of death, L. I. C.'s Group Gratuity-