

channels, rail-road connectivity projects, equipment upgradation/ modernization schemes and other related schemes for creation of back-up facilities have been identified for inclusion in the programme. An amount of Rs.55,804 crores is to be invested in the Port Sector under this programme.

Shortage of pilots

*355. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing a shortage of pilots in aviation industry;
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government to tackle the situation;
- (c) the number of civil aviation training institutes in the country; and
- (d) the details of minimum criteria for admission in these institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no shortage of pilots. However, there is a shortage of Commanders in some category of aircraft.

(b) and (c) There are 45 civil aviation training institutes in the country approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for imparting flying training.

(d) The candidate has to fulfill the requirements as enumerated in Schedule II of Aircraft Rules, 1937 for getting a particular type of licence.

Rupsi airport at Barpeta in Assam

*356. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the airport at Rupsi in Barpeta Assam was destroyed partially by the volunteers during the Independence Movement and recognize the area as a national heritage;
- (b) the details of present land area of Rupsi airfield;
- (c) whether maximum area of land is now under illegal occupation;
- (d) if so, whether Government would remove illegal occupation there at;
- (e) whether Government has any future planning over this airfield at Rupsi; and
- (f) whether Government would make a proper planning for preservation of the area as the monument of the Indian Independence movement and recognize the area as a national heritage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The information is being collected from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the concerned Department.

(b) The land area of Rupsi airfield is 447.416 acres.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has reported that as per the land inspection report of the airport, there is no encroachments at this airport.