

BABATPUR AERODROME

447. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land occupied by the Banaras airport at Babatpur are still lying un-utilised;

(b) whether the grass field named as *Kachcha* run-way has been auctioned for sale;

(c) if so, for how much;

(d) whether un-utilised land occupied by the Banaras airport has been leased to farmers; and

(e) if so, at what rate?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) None of the land is really un-utilised. A part of it is not required for operational purposes; but it is necessary to retain it for ensuring clear approaches to the aerodrome. This part has been leased out for grass cutting or for purposes of cultivation.

(b) Portions of the field altogether measuring about 50 acres which are not required for operational purposes have been leased out for grass-cutting.

(c) For Rs. 301/- per year for three years from 1951.

(d) and (e). Excluding the land under the *Kachcha* run-way, the total area of land under the Babatpur aerodrome is 457 acres, out of which 154 acres have been leased out for cultivation purposes—52 acres by public auction at the rate of Rs. 660/- per annum for 3 years from 12th May, 1951 and 102 acres to local cultivators at rates varying from Rs. 5/2/- to Rs. 21/4/- plus Re. 1/-/- per acre per annum, as assessed by the local revenue authorities, according to the nature of the soil or location of the plot. The remaining land including that under *Kachcha* runway is required for operational purposes and has therefore been leased out, only for grass cutting.

MASTER MARINERS

448. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what steps are being taken to meet the shortage of master mariners of Indian domicile?

(b) Are there any arrangements for the training of such workers?

(c) If so, where are they?

(d) How many candidates are annually trained in these institutions?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). The Government of India have taken the following steps to meet the shortage of Master Mariners of Indian domicile:—

(i) The annual intake in the Training Ship, "Dufferin", Bombay, which imparts training to Indian Nationals for a sea career as navigation officers has been increased from 25 cadets to 50 since 1949.

(ii) A Nautical and Engineering College has been set up at Bombay to provide short intensive courses to assist candidates in passing the professional examinations for certificates of competency as Master Mariners. The average number of candidates assisted by this College is about 150 per year.

(iii) A special batch of 90 direct apprentices was placed on ships in 1949 for practical training and they are just beginning to complete their apprenticeship and sit for their Second Mate's examination.

MEDICAL ADVISERS' DEPARTMENT

449. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the functions of the Medical Advisers' Department in London?