

(b) if so, what are the steps being contemplated to restrict the entry of Foreign Companies; and

(c) if not, how Government intends to protect domestic industry?

**THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):** (a) The Government have put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

(b) FDI policy is incorporated as Schedule I to regulation 5(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, Regulations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA). According to these regulations, a person residing outside India or an entity incorporated outside India, except a citizen or entity in Pakistan, can purchase shares of an Indian company. FDI can be only through incorporation of a company in India under the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) FDI policy lays down ceilings on foreign equity in specified/sensitive sectors such as Broadcasting, Defence Production, Telecom, etc. The policy *vide* Press Note 1(2005) requires prior approval of the Government where a foreign investor has an existing joint venture/technical collaboration or trademark agreement in the same field.

#### **Awarding of research contracts by the Ministry**

**2351. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA.:** Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry awards research contracts to Consultants, NGOs, Academic and Research Organizations etc.;

(b) if so, the list of the research contracts with the name of the organizations awarded the research contracts in the last three years and its progress;

(c) whether the research contracts are illustrated on the website of the Ministry;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) what is the internal process in deciding the topics of these research contracts;

(f) whether the research contracts are awarded through a competitive bidding process;

(g) if so, the criteria adopted for the competitive bidding process; and

(h) if not, what is sanctity of the award process?

**THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (h) Do not arise.

#### **Setting up of Science Centres and Planetariums**

**2352. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:** Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Science Centres and Planetariums presently set up in the country and what are its functions;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to set up more Science Centres and Planetariums in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;