Allotment of Army Surplus Vehicles, Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme, Reservation in Medical/Dental Colleges, War Memorial Hostels, Financial Assistance from Raksha Mantri's Discretionary Fund (RMDF) etc.

(c) and (d) Public grievances/complaints which are received related to implementation of these schemes are attended to at various levels and policies are also reviewed as required from time to time.

Fire at DRDO's Complex at Chandipur

365. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major fire accident occurred in Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratory at Chandipur, Odisha recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an investigation has been carried out to unearth the reasons for the said fire accident; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A fire accident took place in Magazine No.AL-18 (HD 1.3) on 29th April 2013 in Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE), Chandipur (Odisha). The fire was brought under control and its spread to other Magazines was checked. The stored ammunition of the affected Magazine (approximately 14.8 tons) was completely burnt. No damage to any other adjoining property or any casualty was reported.

(c) and (d) Investigation Committee has been constituted to investigate into the circumstances under which the Magazine caught fire. The work of the investigation Committee is in progress.

Examination of hike in FDI in defence sector

366. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to hike Foreign Direct Investment in

defence sector which this Ministry did not agree;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a case by case examination to increase FDI limit has been agreed to; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal was to allow FDI to go up to 49%, inclusive of portfolio flows, in defence production.

(c) and (d) FDI up to 26% is permissible in the defence sector, subject to licensing. However, wherever FDI beyond 26% is likely to result in access to modern and state-of-the-art technology into the country, decisions can be taken to allow higher FDI on a case-to-case basis with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security.

Deployment of officers in URCs

367. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the serving Defence officers have been deployed by the three forces to run the Unit Run Canteens (URCs) with designation as canteen officer, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has any guidelines under which these officers have been posted in URCs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government proposes to recall these serving officers in order to mitigate the shortage of officers in the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.