

strengthen defence cooperation including enhancing defence exchanges through regular dialogue at various levels as also through Service-to-Service Staff Talks.

Both sides have also agreed to upgrade the bilateral joint Army exercise 'HARIMAU SHAKTI' to company level and to set up SU-30 Forum for cooperation in training, maintenance, technical support and safety-related issues, etc. Setting up of the Forum was also discussed during the Air Staff Talks in April, 2016.

Recruitment of women into the armed forces

1006. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to review and amend its policies to encourage and facilitate recruitment of more women into the armed forces; and
- (b) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) Review of recruitment policies including greater role for women in defence is a continuous and ongoing process.

Rehabilitation policy for injured servicemen

1007. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the policy of Government with respect to rehabilitating those who are injured and end up with permanent damage during active operations and are declared unfit for combat duties; and
- (b) whether Government would consider the fitness of those injured in active operations in other parameters and utilize their services for full length instead of giving them compensation or voluntary / compulsory retirement and send them home rendering their life absolutely useless?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Successful projects for DRDO

1008. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the last five years, DRDO has conducted researches in many important projects, security and production of other fields which are beneficial for growth of the country with regard to security, industrial and public welfare;