

*[English]***Drug Price Control Order**

3169. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are studying an alternative model to the Drug Price Control Order which includes a system of dual pricing;

(b) if so, whether any liberty has been given to the industry to fix prices for these products;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether in place of existing DPCO, the proposal has mooted 1% cess on formulations sold in the market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (e) As announced by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech while laying the budget proposals for the year 1999-2000 in the Lok Sabha on 27th February, 1999, a High Level Committee is being constituted in the Department to review the Drug Policy and the price control regime and related issues.

**Disruption in Delhi-Lahore Bus Service**

3170. SHRI K.L. SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lashkar-e-Taiba, a militant outfit based in Jammu and Kashmir has threatened to disrupt the Delhi-Lahore bus service;

(b) if so, whether the outfit has planned to push foreign mercenaries across the border as bus passengers; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to provide extra security to the passengers of bus service and to check the entry of foreign mercenaries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Government is aware of these threats and concerned agencies have been asked to ensure that necessary preventive measures are undertaken and utmost vigilance is maintained.

*[Translation]***Implementation of Rural Development Schemes**

3171. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments are required to take certificate from local Members of Parliament and Legislators regarding proper implementation of rural development schemes sponsored by Centre;

(b) if so, whether above orders are being complied with; and

(c) the details of the schemes wherein these certificates have been taken, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

**Loss to FCI**

3172. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been suffering huge losses every year due to non-receipt of "clear railway receipt" in respect of movement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The operational transit losses occur in multiple handling of foodgrains starting from Mandi stage to the distribution points for the Public Distribution System. The transportation of foodgrains is made by rail or road etc. Non-receipt of 'Clear railway receipt' by railways is also one of the factors in operational transit losses. In case the Wagons are received at the destinations with the

seals of the Booking Station intact, generally the railways do not entertain the claims of shortages as the consignments are booked without 'clear railway receipts'.

(c) In order to minimise the operational transit losses, FCI has taken a number of steps at each stage of activity. Some of the measures are as under:—

- (i) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifying surprise checks at the loading/unloading points, ensuring regular stock verification etc.
- (ii) Installation weighbridges in depots.
- (iii) Minimising multiple handling transshipment and movement in open wagons.
- (iv) Induction of CISF at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage.
- (v) Adoption of 50 Kg. packing in a phased manner and encouraging machine stitching of bags.
- (vi) Food Corporation of India has issued a set of instructions recently to control the operational transit losses prescribing a systematic approach to achieve transparency and accountability.

[English]

#### **Agriculture as Compulsory Subject**

3173. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:  
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:  
SHRI RAM CHANDRA BAINDA:  
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:  
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural education is being given in primary, secondary and senior secondary classes in schools;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to include agriculture as a compulsory subject in schools from class Vth onwards;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) At present there is no proposal to introduce agriculture as a separate compulsory subject in CBSE affiliated schools. However, aspects of agriculture are taught as part of subjects like Social Science, Geography and Botany etc.

[Translation]

#### **Purulia Incident**

3174. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the investigation into the Purulia incident;

(b) whether security lapses have been noticed in the preliminary investigation report;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against the officials found responsible for such lapses; and

(d) the time by which the investigation in regard to Purulia incident is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Central Bureau of Investigation, which was entrusted with the investigation of the Purulia Arms Drop case, has intimated that the case is sub judice. Most of the prosecution witnesses have deposed in the court and during the coming months, more are likely to depose. Letters Rogatory have been sent to various countries, execution reports of which are yet to be received. The matter is being pursued through diplomatic channels and through the Interpol. All efforts are being made by the CBI to apprehend the 7 absconding accused persons through the Interpol.

(b) and (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation submitted reports highlighting certain administrative lapses on the part of different agencies that came to light during