

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