

(SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Dr. Fleischman and Dr. Pons have recently announced results of their experiments relating to cold fusion using palladium as cathode and platinum as anode and lithium chloride in heavy water as electrolyte. Prof. K.S.V. Santhanam of the TIFR has repeated the experiments in a modified electrolytic cell using titanium as cathode and platinum as the anode. Experiments of Prof. Santhanam have *prima facie* indicated a net energy yield in the Cell. Other scientists in the DAE, in BARC as well as in IGCAR are also working on this subject. In some of the experiments release of neutrons has been observed. Experiments carried out so far are of a preliminary nature and more work is being planned.

(b) and (c) The scope of this research is to produce power by passing an electric current through the cell. If ultimately results show that it is possible to achieve fusion of heavy hydrogen, it could provide a possibility of generation of power. There are however many technical problems to be solved and economic aspects to be considered before power generation can become a reality.

(d) It is premature to speculate on production of power using this process. However research programmes are being planned.

**Dumping of nuclear waste by U.S. ships**

1790. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an alert had been sounded in territorial waters along Kerala coast to look out for two U.S. ships which were reported by planning to dump dangerous nuclear toxic waste including reaction hazard materials in Indian ocean; and

(b) if so, what were the developments and out-come of efforts made if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH-

NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) According to the information gathered from the Coast Guard authorities, Cochin, they had received an alert from the Surface Transport Department. So far no such ship has been sighted.

**Adulteration of Food stuffs and other consumer articles**

1791. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 11th March, 1989 under the caption 'That deceptive shine on red chillies' regarding large scale adulteration of food-stuffs and other consumer articles going on in the country; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States/U.T.s have been advised from time to time to keep strict vigil to ensure quality of food-stuffs by drawing more number of samples and to strengthen their Prevention of Food Adulteration enforcement machineries.