

reasonability and prices prevailing in other comparable organisations, etc. and a decision arrived at by the Kendriya Bhandar. In view of the high number of items handled and the frequent procurement to maintain the supply line in the stores, furnishing of information in the manner asked for would involve time and effort which would not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

#### Production of A.L.H.

2279. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trials of prototypes of Advanced Light helicopter (ALH) have shown encouraging results and these are presently operating;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to sell these helicopters in other countries besides catering to the needs of the Indian Air Force, Navy and Army;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the commercial production of ALH is likely to start and the number of these helicopters proposed to be constructed/manufactured per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. Three prototypes of the ALH which are currently under flight testing have either met or exceeded most of the specifications. The fourth prototype is currently under fabrication. The ALH, having incorporated many new technologies, is among the most advanced helicopters in its size class. It is expected to evoke demand also abroad for military and civilian uses. The project for commercial production will be launched after completion of the current certification phase.

#### Atomic Power Station

2280 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest legal position in regard to the disposal of spent fuel in the Atomic Power Stations in the country; and

(b) the annual yield of spent fuel in the Atomic Power Stations in the country and in what manner the disposal subsequent use or recycling of spent fuel is taking place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) As per the Atomic Energy (Safe Disposal of Radio Active Wastes) Rules, 1987, no person shall dispose of radioactive wastes in India without obtaining an authorisation from the competent authority.

(b) A 220 MWe natural uranium fuelled-Pressurised

Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) unit generating electrical energy at a normative capacity factor of 62.8% discharges about 32 tonnes of spent fuel in a year. This quantity varies from year to year based on actual operating conditions.

The policy on disposal of spent fuel discharged by the power reactors is to initially store it under water, then reprocess the same for the recovery of useful nuclear materials present in it and recycle the separated useful nuclear materials back into the reactors as fresh fuel.

#### Photo Identity Cards

2281. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:  
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deadlock over the issue of photo-identity cards to voters has remained unresolved;

(b) whether Election Commission has made it clear that no elections will be held in any State without identity cards;

(c) if so, whether all the Chief Ministers have been consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, their reaction thereto;

(e) whether any concrete decision in this regard has been worked out; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) With the extension of the deadline by the Election Commission for issuance of photo identity cards to 15th January, 1995, the States where the elections are due to be held in 1995 are hopeful of completing the exercise by that time. There is, as such, no deadlock on the issue.

(b) The Election Commission has stated that it shall not hold any election in any State after 1.1.1995 unless photo identity cards have been issued in that State.

(c) and (d). A meeting of the Chief Minister to discuss the direction of the Election Commission regarding issue of photo identity cards was held in New Delhi on 19th January, 1994. The consensus in the meeting was that the scheme of issuance of photo identity cards should be implemented in a phased manner.

(e) and (f). The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 1994 which was introduced in Lok Sabha in June, 1994 contains a provision which seek to make it necessary for Election commission to obtain prior concurrence of the Central Government before notifying and constituency for issuance of photo identity cards and further to render void and inoperative any notification issued by the Election Commission without such prior concurrence.