

sand/mining operation specifically from the point of pollution control and ecology preservation;

- Direction to Maharashtra Government to comply with two Notifications dated January 19, 1991 and June 20, 1991.
 - Court requested the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) to have the Master Plan examined in conformity with the two notifications;
 - Direction to the Central Government to constitute an authority for Dahanu and Thane respectively in the State of Maharashtra under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (c) The action taken by the Government include the following:
- An industrial unit located in District Ahmednagar, Maharashtra has been closed down as per the Supreme Court order.
 - Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has closed about 12 industrial units and also issued notices for closure of about 414 industrial units.
 - The Government have constituted an Authority for Dahanu area under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - The Government had constituted an Authority for Thane under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Authority has submitted its report which has been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[*English*]

Development of Kandla Port Trust

2876. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Kandla Port Trust has taken steps for developing the port in respect of shortage of water and creating more infrastructure there;
- (b) whether the government have drawn any action programme for the purpose;
- (c) if so, the details; thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Gujarat Water Supply Board is responsible for providing water to Kandla Port. Because Water Supply Board has not been able to supply adequate quantity of water to port, the Port Trust has taken up one scheme each at Gopalpuri and Gandhidham costing Rs. 58.62 lakhs and Rs. 67.08 lakhs respectively, for creating infrastructure for water supply in the Port area.

[*Translations*]

Global Tiger Patrol

2877. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a foreign agency called Global Tiger Patrols is providing financial assistance to sanctuaries;
- (b) if so, the date on which the Union Government permitted it and the amount of assistance provided by it;
- (c) if not, the reasons for not having any information about the activities of the Global Tiger Patrol;
- (d) whether the Government are aware that the representatives of this agency had stayed in Raipur forest range in Madhya Pradesh; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No financial assistance have been provided to any Sanctuary by Global Tiger Patrol. However, assistance in kind have been provided to a number of Sanctuaries.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, the representative of Global Tiger Patrol visited Raipur Forest Rest House on 7.5.98 and left on 8.5.98.

[*English*]

Private Participation in the Telecom Sector

2878. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the telecom Commission propose to bring about radical changes in the existing policy for ensuring increased private participation in the telecom sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the hardships faced by the private telecom operators on account of existing policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS: (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) No major change in the National Telecom Policy, 1994 is proposed for the present. However, an Inter-ministerial National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development which has been appointed by the Government to recommend steps that are necessary for making India a super power in information technology, is considering a comprehensive package which as a telecommunication component as well.

(c) The hardship faced by the private telecom operators are not on account of the existing policy. Some constraints have been experienced by them in course of implementing their network roll out plans, both in physical and financial terms.