34.   Regional Offices of the National Tiger Conservation Authority sanctioned at Nagpur, Bengaluru and Guwahati.

35.   Launching of Phase-IV tiger reserve level monitoring.

Pendency of projects for environmental clearance

502. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that many irrigation projects and mining areas are being kept pending for more than three years in Odisha for want of forest and environment clearance;

(b)   whether it is a fact that the Bolani Mines in Odisha of SAIL OMDC Mines in Thakhurani area in Kendhujhar District and Bishra Lime Stone and Dolamite Quarry in Sundargarh District have stopped operation for the last six months for mining clearance and thousands of tribal workers have lost their jobs; and

(c)   if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) In Odisha State, 83 irrigation projects have been accorded final forest clearance by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) from 1980 onwards till date. 26 irrigation project for forest clearance are, at present, under examination with the State Government. There is no project proposal pertaining to irrigation sector pending with MoEF for environment clearance.

As regards Bolani Mines of SAIL, the case for giving environment clearance and proposal for grant of Stage-II approval for diversion of forest land is under examination in MoEF. The proposal for diversion of forest land in respect of OMDC Mines in Thakurani area is pending with the State Government for want of digital global positioning system map of the mining lease. As regards Bishra Lime Stone and Dolamite Quarry in Sundargarh District is concerned, Environmental Clearance has been granted by MoEF and there is no forest land involved in the mining lease.

Protection of leopards

503. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: