

Scheme for Telecom tariff;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date with effect from which it has been introduced and the number of Short Distance Calling Areas for the country with specifications of distance; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and when the scheme would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) Such a scheme is under consideration of Department of Telecommunications.

(b) and (c). The Short Distance Charging areas are being demarcated. Date of implementation can be decided after all the technical arrangements needed for the change over are completed.

Setting up of plant for manufacture of Acetic Acid

*580. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (GNFC) has submitted a proposal for setting up a plant for manufacturing 40,000 tonnes per annum of acetic acid based on methanol;

(b) whether any representation or representations have been received against the proposal; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received against the proposal, mainly from All India Alcohol Based Industries Develop-

ment Association (AABIDA), Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), All India Distillers Association (AIDA) and some individuals. Their main contention is that surplus alcohol is available in the country and with the new licences being issued for alcohol based Acetic Acid there would be no shortage of this product. They have also contended that GNFC's proposal involves foreign exchange outgo of more than Rs. 35 crores whereas the technology and machinery for manufacture from alcohol route are available indigenously.

(c) The Foreign Collaboration application of GNFC for Methanol Carbonylation technology is under consideration and a decision would be taken shortly.

Agency for Promotion of Petrochemical Sector

*584. SHRI S.B. SINAL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to set up an agency for promotion of petrochemical sector;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Production of coal from Singareni Collieries and Manuguru reserves

*586. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for increasing the production of coal from Singareni Collieries and vast reserves at Manuguru; and

(b) the details of the outlays proposed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) A programme for increasing the coal production from Singareni Collieries Company Limited from the present level of 18.60 mt. (1988-89) to 21.50 m.t. by 1989-90 and 33.59 m.t. by 1994-95 has been drawn up. This programme, inter-alia, includes reconstruction/reorganisation of existing mines, speedy implementation of on-going projects and opening of new projects.

The present production in Manuguru area is 2.10 m.t. (1988-89) and it will increase to about 2.52 m.t. in 1989-90 and 4.55 m.t. by 1994-95. The proven reserves of coal in Manuguru area are estimated at 450 million tonnes down to a depth of 600 metres and exploration work is in progress to prove additional coal reserves. Of this, 214 million tonnes of coal reserve is being exploited through already operating mines and the balance 236 million tonnes is mostly deep seated for which mine planning is in progress.

(b) For the Seventh Plan period the Planning Commission had approved an outlay of Rs. 580 crores for the Singareni Collieries Company Limited excluding State Government's contribution. The annual plan outlay for 1989-90 has been fixed at Rs. 211 crores including Rs. 50 crores of internal and extra budgetary resources and Rs. 11 crores State Government's contribution. For various projects in the Manuguru area, Annual Plan 1989-90) provides for Rs. 55.99 crores. For the 8th Plan period (1990-95), SCCL has projected an outlay of Rs. 185 crores for this area.

T.V. Transmission from Doordarshan Kendras

*589. **SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of recent substandard T.V. transmissions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what corrective measure have been taken?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c). The overall performance of various TV transmitters in Doordarshan's network is satisfactory. There have, however, been instances when a few transmitters developed faults due to the failure of some of their components. Such failures are looked into promptly and corrective action taken to restore the performance of the effected transmitters. There have also been instances when reception of some transmitters suffered adversely during past few months due to anomalous long distance propagation of signals from distant TV transmitter caused by abnormally high solar activity. The position has since improved.

Petrochemical Project at Madras

591. **DR. V. VENKATESH:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have cleared the petrochemical project to be established at Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has obtained detailed project report both from the Indian