

	(Rs. in lakh)	
	93-94	94-95
1. National Malaria Eradication Programme	502.00	811.80
2. National Leprosy Eradication Programme	34.69	85.00
3. National Tuberculosis Control Programme	276.00	282.00
4. National Programme for Control of Blindness	88.53	127.50
5. National AIDS Control Programme	65.83	165.00
6. Family Welfare Programme	8362.13	4090.20

In addition to above, 3 crore capsules of Tetracycline (250 mg) costing about Rs. 1.84 crore and 'Dhupan Samgri' for fumigation worth Rs. 20 lakh and also some educational material were provided to the State during recent outbreak of Plague.

Power Projects

837. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "Doubts over viability of power project" which appeared in the 'Statesman' dated November 8, 1994;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The newsitem "Doubts over viability of power project" reportedly based on a draft discussion paper prepared by the Indira Gandhi Institution of Development Research, Bombay claims that if the private power projects in the pipeline are given counter-guarantees similar to the one extended to Enron, the Government of India may face a financial crisis.

(c) The observations, attributed to the discussion paper of Indira Gandhi Institution of Development Research, Bombay have been examined by the Ministry of Power and are found to be based on certain assumptions which are unrealistic and have resulted in highly inflated counter-guarantee exposure amounts. The discussion paper assumes that the counter-guarantees would be provided to projects totalling 20,000 MW for an amount of about US\$ 10 billion per year, which is assumed to be 3% of the GDP of the country. As against the assumed figure of 20,000 MW, the Government has agreed in principle to extend the counter-guarantees to eight projects for a capacity of only 4808 MW. The counter-guarantee extended to Enron is a limited guarantee in terms of both its scope and term and places an annual guarantee limit at Rs. 1500 crore with provisions for escalation. The payment obligations in respect of the other 7 projects for which counter-guarantee has been agreed would be of the order

of Rs. 7403 crore. The Central Government's exposure is thus expected to be only about Rs. 8903 crore (US\$ 2.8 billion) for all these projects which would only be about 0.8% of the GDP if this is to be compared with the 3% of GDP figure of the discussion paper. The other fallacious assumption is that the State Electricity Boards and the States would invariably default all the time on their payment obligations to the private power companies, which is wholly against the experience of Central PSUs which have been selling massive quantum of Power of the State Electricity Boards. It needs to be emphasised that the counter-guarantees in actuality do not expose the Central Government to this high degree of financial liability as there are adequate safeguards built in the scheme particularly the right of the Central Government to debit the Account of the States with the RBI into which the devolution due to the States from the Centre are credited. The possibility of the counter-guarantees actually being triggered are extremely remote. The counter-guarantees are conceived as only a confidence building measure and there is no reason that these would lead to a financial crisis for the Central Government.

[Translation]

New Electronic Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

838. SHRI RAM BADAN:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOAMR:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges commissioned during 1992-93 and 1993-94 in the Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new electronic exchanges in these States during 1994-95;

(c) if so, the details with capacity thereof; district-wise; and

(d) the amount to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone Connections in Gujarat

839. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in major cities of Gujarat as on October 31, 1994, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons registered for telephone connections during 1992-93;

(c) the number of persons out of them, provided with telephone connections; and

(d) the measures proposed to be adopted by the