

(g) Some of the major programmes planned for the expansion and modernisation of telecommunication network in the State during Ninth Five Year Plan are as follows:

- (i) To provide telephones on demand;
- (ii) To provide telephone facility in all the villages by the end of 9th Five Year plan.
- (iii) To provide STD facility to all the remaining exchanges.
- (iv) To replace life expired and technologically obsolete switches with digital switches.
- (v) To computerise trunk services at SSA Head Qrs.
- (vi) Introduction of new technologies like wireless in local loop, Optical Fiber Technologies, etc. in the local network.
- (vii) Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing village telephones.
- (viii) To have reliable transmission media for all exchanges.
- (ix) Computerised billing and accounting in all divisions.
- (x) Modernisation of fault repair services.
- (xi) Computerise directory enquiry services in all SSAs.
- (xii) To give priority for Telecom facilities in sensitive areas, Tribal and Hilly areas and Industrial growth centres.

Statement

Target/Achievements During Eighth Five Year Plan (92-97)

	Target	Achievement
1. Switching Capacity	1,26,365	1,49,311
2. Direct Exchange Lines	1,02,550	1,18,518
3. Village Public Telephone	18,300	13,007
4. STD Stations	478	498

[Translation]

Lifting of Ban on Purchase of Arms from Bofors

727. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
 SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
 KUMARI UMABHARATI:
 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
 SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift the ban imposed on the purchase of arms manufactured by Swedish company A.B. Bofors;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons compelling the Government to re-consider the ban imposed on the purchase from above company during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have also imported spare parts from the said company during the past few years; and

(e) if so, the year-wise amount spent on the import of spare parts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The embargo on M/s Bofors continues to be in force.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Promotion of Tourism in Maharashtra

728. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of the total amount allocated to Maharashtra for promotion of tourism during the Eight Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of the amount spent out of the said amount during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism do not earmark or allocate fund for assistance to different states. However, funds are given on the basis of specific proposals received from them as per guidelines and merit's of each case. The year-wise amount sanctioned and released by the Deptt. of Tourism during the Eighth Five Year Plan for various projects in Maharashtra are given below.

Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount released
	(Rs.in lakhs)	
1992-93	201.30	94.09
1993-94	309.11	132.10
1994-95	273.46	119.23
1995-96	63.75	17.89
1996-97	187.69	84.00

The releases are made on the basis of progress of implementation of the projects.

*[English]***Shortage of Pilots in IAF**

729. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of pilots in the Indian Air Force, with majority of vacancies in the combat wing;

(b) if so, whether there is similar shortage in the maintenance crew and engineers also; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to tackle the situation and ensure that there is no adverse effect on the combat preparedness of the IAF during any conflict?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of shortages in technical branches is around 10% of the establishment.

(c) The short Service Commissions is operative in Flying and Technical branches to meet the shortages. Also sustained publicity and recruitment drive is on the attract the youth in the officer cadre in the IAF.

Literacy Movement

730. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI MADAN PATIL:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI A. SAMPATH:

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a proposal to boost the literacy movement known as "each one (student), teach five";

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and follow-up action being taken for its implementation;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend this scheme to cover University students also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

731. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR:

SHRI SURESH PRABHU:

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT:

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

SHRI JAISINH CHAUHAN:

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any monitoring system to measure the pollution levels in various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the environment pollution particularly in metropolitan cities and major industrial towns is reaching the hazardous level;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to formulate an 'Action Plan' about it in consultation with the State Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring the levels of major air pollutants under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme, through a network of 290 monitoring stations covering 92 cities/towns in the country. The monitoring stations are located in three different areas, i.e. Residential (R), Commercial (C) and Industrial (I), in each city and ambient air quality is assessed in terms of concentration of Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen dioxide (NO_x) and Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM). Besides, 480 water quality monitoring stations have been set up in different parts of the country.

(c) The air and water quality monitoring data indicates that the pollution levels reach critical levels occasionally in certain areas of metropolitan cities and major towns in the country.

In order to assess the water pollution problems, surveys have also been carried out for status of water supply and concentration and management of municipal solid wastes in cities and towns. Water quality monitoring programmes are carried out by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).

(d) to (f) Out of 24 critically polluted areas identified in the country, action plans for 16 critically polluted areas have been prepared and are being implemented by CPCB through the SPCBs. In addition, the following steps have been taken by the Government to check environmental pollution in the country;

— The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement for Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic