

(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.