

(iii) Minor breaches at two location between Kelve Road and Sanjan stations on Virar-Surat section.

(iv) Signalling equipment like point machine, track circuiting equipment and signalling cables were damaged in Mumbai area. Besides Optical Fibre Cable, associated equipment and Overhead Electrical Traction Equipments were damaged near Arch Bridge No. 144.

(b) As per preliminary estimate loss is approximately Rs. 2.5 crores.

(c) Traffic has been restored after bridging the affected location of Bridge No. 144 by temporary girders, and permanent bridge has been planned for construction at the location of Bridge No. 144 well before next monsoon. All other damage being minor, has been attended.

### **Optic Fibre Communication Project**

\*388. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway fibre optic communication project, RailTel, has failed to take-off, as the Railways have not been able to attract any telecom major as a JV partner, with a 49 per cent equity;

(b) whether talks with MTNL and power-grid have not succeeded; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether, as a result, the Railways are off-loading parts of 49 per cent equity of their own PSUs; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. RailTel has started functioning. RailTel is presently executing works for providing optical fibre cable to connect the 4 major metros namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and 4 mini metros namely Ahmedabad, Pune, Secunderabad and Bangalore. The Fibre Optic network connecting above cities is expected to be completed in the current financial year. RailTel has already taken Infrastructure Provider's-I (IP-I), Infrastructure Provider's—II (IP-II) and Internet service Provider (ISP) licenses. RailTel has started earning revenues by providing tower space for mounting antennae and bandwidth to Telecom Service Providers.

(b) RailTel had discussions with M/s Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for equity participation as a Joint Venture (JV) partner. No decision has yet been possible on this issue on account of firming up of premium on Equity and quantum of equity to be offered.

While deciding about the induction of joint venture partners in RailTel, the Government has decided that, initially, Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) of Railways and PSUs of Department of Telecommunication (DoT) may be considered for induction of JV partners. Therefore, so far, no discussions have been held with M/s Power-Grid Corporation of India Limited in this respect.

(c) No. Sir. As per the Government's decision, Railway's Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC), Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR) and IRCON International Limited (IRCON) have been directed for equity participation in RailTel to the extent of Rs. 100 Crore, Rs. 25 Crore and Rs. 25 Crore respectively, totaling to 15% of the authorised capital.

### **Decline in Dyestuff Exports**

\*389. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dyestuffs Manufacturers' Association of India (DMAI) has submitted an action plan to his Ministry, to combat decline in exports and undercutting;

(b) if so, the details of plan-aims and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the names of the countries which are importing Dyestuffs from India; and

(d) India's share in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) The Dyestuffs Manufacturers' Association of India (DMAI) has prepared Strategic Action Plan for dyes and dye-intermediates industry 2001-2010. It envisages more than 4 fold increase in exports over the next 9 years from Rs. 2830 crore in 2000-2001 to Rs. 12177 crore in 2009-2010. DMAI has suggested measures