

The Mobile coverage especially the 3G coverage in Villupuram district will be enhanced with new high capacity 3G Node Bs on implementation of Phase -VIII.4 Project.

#### **Internet shutdowns**

2153. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of internet shutdowns taken place in the country in the last three years under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), year-wise; and

(b) the details of internet shutdowns taken place under recently released Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017 in August, 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

#### **National wi-fi network**

2154. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to create a national Wi-Fi network in the country;

(b) if so, the deadline fixed for the completion of the project; and

(c) the funds allocated for this project and the status of the project as of 31 October, 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) BharatNet project is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) approximately 2,50,000 in the country and to provide non-discriminatory access of this network to the Service Providers for provisioning of broadband services in rural areas. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-fi or any other suitable broadband technology is to be provided at all the GPs in the country. The project is targeted to completed by March 2019.

(c) ₹ 4066 crore has been approved for providing last mile connectivity through Wi-fi or any other suitable broadband technology at all the GPs in the country under BharatNet project. The strategy to provide last mile connectivity has been approved by the Telecom Commission on 08.09.2017. The tender to select the Implementing Agency for provision of last mile connectivity has been floated on 26.12.2017 by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).

#### Procurement centres in North-East Region

2155. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of procurement centres operational in North-Eastern Region, along with the details in regard to State specific centres thereof;
- (b) the total storage capacity in these procurement centres;
- (c) the total number of procurement centres opened by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the last two Kharif seasons, along with the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of procurement centres in the North-Eastern Region established on private support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) Assam is the only procuring state in North-East Region. The number of paddy purchase centres opened during KMS 2017-18 is as under:

State	FCI	State Govt./Agencies	Total
Assam	40	61	101

(b) The total storage capacity of these procurement centres is 2.21 LMT.

(c) The total number of procurement centres opened by Food Corporation of India (FCI) for procurement of paddy in the last two Kharif seasons are as under:

Kharif Marketing Season (KMS)	Purchase centres opened by FCI
2015-16	29
2016-17	38

(d) No procurement centre in the North-East Region has been established by private support.