

(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.