

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1601
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/12/2022

International Day of Co-operatives

1601 # Shri Satish Chandra Dubey:

Will the Minister of **Cooperation** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has recently celebrated the 100th International day of Co-operatives;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the program organized on the said occasion and the objective of the International Day of Co-operatives;
- (c) whether Government is working on drafting a new Co-operative Policy along with the schemes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the targets and objectives; and
- (e) the details of the other steps taken by Government to impart Co-operative education and training with the objective of bringing social-economic development for inclusive growth in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COOPERATION
सहकारिता मंत्री (SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. On the occasion of 100th International Day of Cooperatives, the Government of India, in association with National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), organized a Conference themed 'Cooperatives Build an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and a Better World.' The programme was widely attended by stakeholders from across the country, besides international delegates.

The Government of India, through National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) also organized a webinar on the theme 'Convergence and Scaling up in the Cooperative Training' which was attended by stakeholders and representatives from the cooperative sector.

The objective of the International Day of Cooperatives is to increase awareness of cooperatives and promote the movement's ideas of international solidarity, economic efficiency, equality and world peace.

(c) & (d): The formulation of New National Cooperation Policy is envisaged to realize the vision of 'Sahakar se Samriddhi,' promoting the cooperative based economic development model, strengthening the cooperative movement in the country and deepening its reach up to the grassroots.

In this regard, consultations were held with the stakeholders. The suggestions for the new policy were invited from the Central Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, National Cooperative Federations, institutions as also from the general public.

With a view to analyse the various issues, policy suggestions, collated feedback & recommendations, a National level committee has been constituted on 2nd September, 2022 under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, consisting of experts of the cooperative sector, representatives from National/State/District/Primary level cooperative societies, Secretaries (Cooperation) and RCSs from States/UTs, officers from Central Ministries/Departments to formulate the New National Cooperation Policy, providing a framework to unlock the true potential of the Cooperation sector.

Besides, a number of schemes have been initiated, the details of some of which are as under:

i. Project for Computerization of 63,000 functional Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in next three years, with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2,516 crores has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs vide its decision dated 29th June, 2022. This project entails bringing all the functional PACS onto an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based common software, linking them with NABARD through State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks(DCCBs).

ii. Model bye-laws for PACS have been prepared after detailed stakeholder consultations, including all the States/Union Territories and Ministries concerned, for adoption by PACS as per their respective State Cooperative Societies Act. These Model Bye-laws of PACS will enable them to undertake more than 25 business activities like dairy, fishery, floriculture, setting up of godowns, procurement of foodgrains, fertilizers, seeds, LPG/Petrol/Green energy distribution agency, banking correspondents, common service centres, etc.

iii. The Ministry has also initiated the process of developing a National Cooperative Database for having an authentic & updated data repository of cooperatives working in all sectors. This Database shall facilitate all stakeholders in policy making & implementation leading to strengthening of the cooperative movement in the country.

(e): In order to professionalize the working of cooperatives in India, steps are being initiated to augment, restructure & reorient the existing cooperative education & training system in the country, in consultation with various stakeholders. The aim is to standardize and bring high-quality education/training so as to make cooperatives more efficient and productive to contribute in inclusive growth.
