

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1603

TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/03/2023

Automation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies

1603. Shri P. Wilson:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has been able to automate Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and whether a uniform software has been employed in all;
- (b) whether the Ministry has devised any policy to diversify the loan grants and maintain check-balance on repayment of the loan disbursed;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken steps to implement waiving of agricultural loans; and
- (d) Whether the Ministry as per the announcement made on June 29, 2022, has been able to provide allied services such as provision of inputs like fertilizers, seeds, etc. by PACS ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COOPERATION
सहकारिता मंत्री (SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) to (d): A Centrally sponsored project for Computerization of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)/Large Area Multi-Purpose Societies (LAMPS)/Farmers Service Societies (FSS) across the country with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2,516 Crore, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 29th June, 2022, is under implementation.

At present, proposal for computerization of 54,752 PACS/LAMPS/FSS has been received from the States/UTs and central share amounting to Rs. 201.18 crore has been released for the procurement of hardware, digitization of legacy data and establishing support system. The Project Monitoring Units (PMUs) have been set up at Central and State Levels by NABARD. Development of software has been started by the National Level Project Software Vendor (NLPSV) selected by NABARD.

The project entails bringing all the functional PACS onto on ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based common software, linking them with NABARD through State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), that will also help in maintaining check and balance on repayment of the loan disbursed.

The Ministry of Cooperation in consultation with States/UTs & other stakeholders concerned, has prepared Model Bye-laws for PACS to diversify their activities to become Multipurpose Cooperative Societies. Model byelaws have been circulated to all the States/UTs on 05.01.2023 for their adoption by PACS subject to their respective State Cooperative Societies Acts. The Model Bye-laws would enable PACS to carry out more than 25 business activities such as dairy, fisheries, food grain storage, LPG/CNG/Petrol/Diesel distributorship, common service centers, Fair Price Shops (FPS), community irrigation, Business Correspondent activities, etc. The common national software would support all the activities mentioned in the model byelaws including the provision of inputs like fertilizer, seeds, etc. by PACS.

However, waiving of agricultural loans does not come under the purview of Ministry of Cooperation.
