

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1771
ANSWERED ON 07/08/2024

Linking PACS with dairy and fisheries related activities

1771 # SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to link PACS with dairy or fisheries related activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which farmers associated with PACS will be benefited; and
- (d) the manner in which this initiative of Government would strengthen the cooperative movement?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) to (d): Yes. In order to diversify the business activities of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to transform them into vibrant economic entities at Panchayat/ village level, Model Byelaws have been framed by the Ministry of Cooperation.

Model Byelaws allow PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities, including dairy, fishery, setting up godowns, procurement of foodgrains, fertilizers, seeds, LPG/CNG/Petrol/Diesel distributorship, short-term & long-term credit, custom hiring centers, Fair Price Shops (FPS), community irrigation, Business Correspondent activities, Common Service Centre, etc.

Engaging PACS in dairy and fishery related activities will benefit the farmers associated with them in various ways including the following:

- i. It will diversify the business activities of PACS.
- ii. It will provide additional sources of income to PACS ultimately benefitting their farmer members.
- iii. It will provide better market access with forward and backward linkages to farmer members.
- iv. Through expansion in the size of markets, it will enable farmers associated with PACS to realize better prices for their produce.

The diversification of business activities of PACS will strengthen the cooperative movement by enhancing the economic viability of PACS, increasing member participation and engagement in cooperative activities, promoting entrepreneurship and employment generation in rural areas, thus fostering a more integrated and robust rural cooperative ecosystem in the country.
