

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 168
ANSWERED ON 27/11/2024

**Economically strengthening of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies
(PACS)**

168. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to economically strengthen Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS);
- (b) the status of onboarding PACS as Common Service Centres (CSCs) in the country including Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether Government has approved a decentralised grain storage programme involving PACS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the total amount of funds allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu for the schemes laid down by Ministry?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) and (b): The Government has taken several initiatives to economically strengthen Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), including Computerization of PACS Project which entails bringing 67,930 functional PACS onto an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based common national software which will help in improving their operational efficiency, ensuring speedy disbursement of loans, lowering of transaction costs and increasing transparency; Model Byelaws for PACS which will enable them to diversify their business by undertaking more than 25 economic activities, including dairy, fishery, floriculture, setting up godowns, procurement of foodgrains, fertilizers, seeds, LPG/CNG/Petrol/Diesel distributorship, etc. PACS have also been enabled to function as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras providing fertilizers, pesticides and various other agri inputs to farmers at a single shop; as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras to ensure availability of quality generic medicines to rural citizens at affordable prices; as Common Service Centre (CSC) providing more than 300 e-services such as banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/ updation, health services, legal services, payment of electricity bill, etc. being provided by CSCs to rural citizens of the country, etc.

As on 20.11.2024, 53,382 PACS including 4,453 PACS in the State of Tamil Nadu have been onboarded as CSC, out of which 40,214 PACS including 4,453 PACS in the State of Tamil Nadu have started functioning as CSC.

(c) and (d): In order to address the shortage of decentralized food grain storage capacity in the country, the Government on 31.5.2023 approved the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector”, to be rolled out as a Pilot Project. The Plan entails creation of various agri infrastructure at PACS level, including godowns, custom hiring center, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc. through convergence of various existing schemes of the Government of India (GoI), such as Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), etc.

(e): The total amount of funds allocated to the State of Tamil Nadu for the projects laid down by the Ministry are as follows:

Sr. No.	Initiative of the Ministry	Fund allocated for FY 2024-25 (Rs. in crores)
1.	Computerization of PACS	24.95
2.	Computerization of ARDBs	1.63
3.	Computerization of RCS office	1.70
