

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2882
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th MARCH, 2025

Sahakar Mitra Internship Scheme

2882. Smt. Dharmshila Gupta:
Shri Deepak Prakash:
Smt. Rekha Sharma:
Smt. Kiran Choudhry:
Shri Madan Rathore:
Shri Narhari Amin:
Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah:
Shri Narayana Koragappa:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to enable students from rural and economically weaker backgrounds to avail internship opportunities under the said scheme;
- (b) whether there is any provision to increase the number of internship seats on the basis of demand basis especially for students belonging to agriculture and rural development sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there has been any partnership between the Sahakar Mitra Internship Scheme and other major Government initiatives such as Startup India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat or Digital India to strengthen the cooperative sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a statutory corporation under the administrative control of Ministry of Cooperation, launched Sahakar Mitra Internship Scheme with the objective to provide work related learning experience in the core and special fields of functioning of NCDC to students of professional courses and to project contribution and achievements of NCDC in the development of cooperative. The scheme is open to students of all background.

(b) & (c) Considering the requirement of the NCDC, the present intake capacity of intern under the scheme is 180 in a year. However, NCDC may consider increasing the number of intern seats as and when there is justifiable requirement / demand for the same.

(d) & (e) The Sahakar Mitra Internship Scheme contributes significantly to the development of the cooperative sector in the country in several ways. It helps promote and enable young professional graduates to take on leadership and entrepreneurial roles within Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) organized under the Cooperative Act. The scheme also orients these graduates to the cooperative business model, encouraging them to engage in the establishment of start-up cooperatives. Additionally, the scheme provides valuable assistance to cooperatives in need by helping them prepare business plans and projects, thereby strengthening their operational capacities and fostering growth within the sector. There has been no partnership so far.

The Sahakar Mitra Internship Scheme aims to support the socio-economic development of the country by enabling cooperative institutions to benefit from the innovative ideas of young professionals while providing interns with valuable field experience.
