

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1931
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th DECEMBER, 2025

POTATO SUPPLY CHAIN

1931. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Banas Dairy and BBSSL align with Government cooperation among Cooperatives and Sahakar Se Samriddhi visions;
- (b) whether any specific contractual mechanisms are put in place to ensure that small holder potato growers receive certified seeds and fair share of market price;
- (c) whether Government is planning to prepare any roadmap for replicating this model in other major potato producing States, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures being taken to ensure long-term sustainability of seed-potato supply chain including farmer training, post-harvest handling and risk-management tools?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a): Yes, Sir, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Banas Dairy and BBSSL aligns with the Government's Sahakar Se Samriddhi vision by fostering cooperative-to-cooperative collaboration, improving farmer incomes, strengthening market linkages, and advancing modern agricultural practices, including certified seed production. This MoU aims to establish a comprehensive "seed-to-market" potato value chain that facilitates the production of certified, disease-free seed potatoes while promoting scientific cultivation methods, contract farming arrangements and efficient market linkages. Under the MoU, BBSSL will use Banas Dairy's tissue culture and aeroponic facilities while Banas Dairy will provide technical and market support.

(b): Yes, Sir. The MoU includes mechanisms to ensure:

- Production and supply of certified and disease-free seed potatoes,
- Equitable supply at competitive prices,
- Quality control and traceability,
- Farmer market linkage through Banas Dairy's processing and marketing network,
- Buy-back arrangements wherever feasible, and
- Capacity building through training and extension services

(c): Yes Sir, the model is presently implemented as a pilot initiative. Based on its outcomes, the feasibility of replication in other major potato-producing states can be explored in consultation with concerned State Governments and cooperative institutions.

(d): Yes Sir, the following measures are being undertaken to ensure long-term sustainability of seed-potato supply chain including farmer training, post-harvest handling and risk-management tools:

- Farmer training: training programs on scientific cultivation, sustainable practices and storage;
- Post-harvest management: development of cold storage linkage, grading and handling systems;
- Risk management: provision of certified seeds, promotion of crop diversification, buy-back where feasible, and market linkage through cooperatives.
