

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4175
ANSWERED ON 01.04.2026

Enhancing commercial activities of Multipurpose PACS

4175 # Smt. Darshana Singh:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any step to enhance the business activities of Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any plan for the convergence of existing schemes of the Central Government at the PACS level; and
- (d) if so, the details of the schemes proposed to be converged?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) to (d): Ministry of Cooperation has taken several steps to enhance the business activities of Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) through convergence of existing schemes of the Central Government. The details of such steps and initiatives are as under:

i. Model Bye-Laws for Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS), making them multipurpose, vibrant business entities:

Government, in consultation with all the stakeholders, including States/ UTs, National Level Federations, State Cooperative Banks (StCBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), etc., has prepared and circulated Model Bye-laws for PACS to all the States/ UTs, which enable PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities, improve governance, transparency, and accountability in their operations. Provisions have also been made to make the membership of PACS more inclusive and broad-based, giving adequate representation to women and the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. So far, 32 States/ UTs have adopted Model Bye-laws or their existing bye-laws are in line with Model Bye-laws.

ii. Establishing New Multipurpose PACS/ Dairy/ Fishery Cooperatives to cover all the Panchayats:

The Government of India has approved the plan to establish new multipurpose PACS/dairy/fisheries cooperatives, aiming to cover all panchayats and villages in the country over the next five years. This initiative is supported by NABARD, National Dairy

Development Board (NDDDB), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), and State/UT Governments. As per the National Cooperative Database, a total of 32,802 new PACS, Dairy and Fishery Cooperative Societies have been registered; and 15,793 Dairy and Fisheries Cooperative Societies have been strengthened as on 20.01.2026 across the country since the approval of the plan on 15.2.2023.

iii. Strengthening of PACS through Computerization:

To strengthen PACS, a project for the Computerization of functional PACS with a total financial outlay of ₹2925.39 Crore has been approved by the Government of India, which entails bringing all functional PACS in the Country onto a common ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning)-based national software, linking them with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through StCBs and DCCBs. A total of 79,630 PACS from 31 States/ UTs have been sanctioned under the project. A total of 61,478 PACS have been onboarded on Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software, and hardware has been procured by 30 States/UTs.

iv. World's Largest Decentralized Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector:

Government has approved a plan to create warehouses, custom hiring centers, primary processing units and other agri-infrastructure for grain storage at PACS level, through convergence of various Government of India (GOI) schemes, including 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. This will reduce wastage of food grains and transportation costs, enable farmers to realize better prices for their produce and meet various agricultural needs at the PACS level itself. Under the pilot project, construction of godowns in 11 PACS of 11 States has been completed. Further, under the Extended Pilot, more than 500 PACS across the country have been identified for the construction of godowns under the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector.

Currently, the State Department of Food and Civil Supplies, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), and National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited (NCCF) have given hiring assurance for godowns to be constructed in 287 PACS, and construction work has commenced in 208 PACS, out of which construction completed in 109 PACS (Rajasthan - 90, Maharashtra- 15 and Gujarat - 4)

v. PACS as Common Service Centers (CSCs) for better access to e-services:

An MoU has been signed between the Ministry of Cooperation, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), NABARD, and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited for providing more than 300 e-services such as banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/ updation, health services, PAN card, and IRCTC/ Bus/ Air ticket, etc., through PACS. So far, 52,018 PACS are functioning as CSC.

vi. Formation of new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS:

With the initiative of Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, additional target of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) was allocated to NCDC by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI, for formation and promotion of FPOs in cooperative sector through strengthening of PACS under the scheme and NCDC got target of 1117 FPOs and registered/onboarded 1117 FPOs through the members of PACS. This will help provide farmers with necessary market linkages and a fair and remunerative process for their produce. NCDC has disbursed ₹245 crore to FPOs/Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) under the scheme as of 15.01.2026.

- vii. PACS given priority for Retail Petrol/ Diesel outlets:** The Government has allowed PACS to be included in the Combined Category 2 (CC2) for allotment of retail petrol/ diesel outlets. As per information received from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), 394 PACS from 28 States/UTs have applied online for retail petrol/ diesel outlets. So far, 12 PACS have been commissioned as Retail Outlets.
- viii. PACS as PM Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra for improving access to generic medicines at the rural level:** PACS have been allowed to operate Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs), which will provide an additional income source to them and ease the access to quality generic medicines for rural citizens. So far, 817 PACS are functioning as PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- ix. PACS as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendras (PMKSK):** PACS have been enabled to operate PMKSK for ensuring easy accessibility of fertilizer & related services to farmers in the country. As per the information shared by the States/ UTs, a total of 38,190 PACS are functioning as PMKSK.
- x. PACS to carry out O&M of rural piped water supply schemes (PWS):** PACS have been made eligible to carry out the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of PWS in rural areas. As per information received from States/ UTs, 762 PACS have been identified/ selected by 10 States/ UTs to provide O&M services at the Panchayat/ Village level.
