

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 483
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2025

Uneven access to cooperative credit for small and marginal farmers

483 Shri Raghav Chadha:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of the coverage of cooperative credit institutions among small and marginal farmers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) details on the number of farmers receiving short-term and long-term agricultural credit through cooperative banks and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), category wise, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) steps that are being taken by Government to expand the outreach of cooperative credit institutions in underserved regions and among small and marginal farmers; and
- (d) quantum of funds allocated and utilised for strengthening cooperative credit structures including PACS and cooperative banks in the last five years, State-wise and year-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) A comprehensive National Cooperative Database (NCD) has been developed by Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, with the support of State/UT Governments. The data of all the Cooperative Societies from various sectors has been entered in the database by the States/UTs for this purpose. The Government undertakes State-wise and regional assessment using the National Cooperative Database (NCD) to identify gaps in cooperative coverage. As on 20.01.2026, a total of 1,11,503 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in present the country; 1,06,197 are functional; 3,851 are non-functional/dormant; 1,455 are under liquidation and 13,383 Gram Panchayats are yet to be covered by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies. The details are at **Annexure-I**.

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) constitute the lowest tier of the three- tier short term cooperative credit (STCC) structure in the country and hence play a significant role

in transforming the agricultural and rural landscape of Indian economy. PACS provide credit facility by linkage with District Central Cooperative Bank, State Cooperative Bank and NABARD, distribute agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, crop purchase, storage facilities, etc to the member farmers. In this regard, 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. 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.

(b) The detailed information on short-term and long-term agricultural credit through Cooperative Banks and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) placed at **Annexure-II**

(c) The Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to expand the outreach of cooperative credit institutions, particularly in underserved, tribal, hilly and aspirational regions, and among small and marginal farmers. Key steps include:

- Formation of new cooperatives: A plan approved in February 2023 envisages the formation of 2 lakh new multipurpose PACS, dairy and fishery cooperative societies over five years to ensure cooperative coverage in all uncovered Panchayats and villages.
- Diversification through Model Bye-laws: The Model Bye-laws for PACS enable societies to undertake over 25 business activities, including operation of Common Service Centres (CSCs), storage godowns and retail services, thereby improving financial viability and providing farmers with single-point access to credit and allied services.
- 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-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 61,025 PACS have been onboarded on Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software, and hardware has been procured by 30 States/UTs.
- Digital financial inclusion: Distribution of RuPay Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and Micro-ATMs is being promoted to facilitate doorstep banking and digital transactions through PACS and cooperative banks.
- Strengthening cooperative banks: Sahakar Sarathi has been launched for Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs), to provide modern Core Banking Solutions (CBS) and digital payment integration. Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) have been permitted to open new branches without prior RBI approval up to a specified limit and to provide doorstep banking services.
- Inclusive governance measures: The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023 mandates reservation of two seats for women and one seat for SC/ST members on boards of multi-State cooperatives. RBI has also removed the sub-limit on lending to women borrowers under Priority Sector norms, enabling greater credit flow.

- Evidence-based targeting: The National Cooperative Database (NCD) maps over 8.4 lakh cooperatives, enabling identification of coverage gaps and targeted intervention in underserved Gram Panchayats.

(d) Over the last five years, the Government has allocated and provided funds to modernize and strengthen the cooperative credit structure, including computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs).

The State-wise allocation details in both the projects are attached as **Annexure III**

Annexure-I

PACS Operational Status and Membership as on 20-01-2026							
State	Total PACS	Functional	Non-Functional / Dormant	Under Liquidation	Total PACS Membership	SC Membership	ST Membership
Andaman And Nicobar Islands	47	47	0	0	14930	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	2062	2043	16	3	5369439	550380	177352
Arunachal Pradesh	165	162	3	0	19339	158	15400
Assam	2046	1291	380	375	2323521	258132	365106
Bihar	8500	8500	0	0	13778074	2065942	396571
Chandigarh	17	4	10	3	2742	0	0
Chhattisgarh	2525	2505	20	0	3500250	427798	993538
Goa	161	137	8	16	259654	1185	29349
Gujarat	11027	10472	303	252	3436851	185893	508184
Haryana	815	815	0	0	2907023	443174	4800
Himachal Pradesh	2307	2214	51	42	1376729	318535	65048
Jammu And Kashmir	809	753	55	1	272107	9670	24961
Jharkhand	4459	4458	1	0	1695244	253014	520483
Karnataka	6326	6170	34	122	7956123	1016725	619907
Kerala	1709	1647	29	33	30528321	1840935	128885
Ladakh	163	129	34	0	16831	19	12638
Madhya Pradesh	5207	5184	21	2	5721895	573167	1235115
Maharashtra	21196	21152	2	42	12270322	880689	838402
Manipur	356	329	27	0	73335	2589	37597
Meghalaya	817	746	71	0	162015	3594	131027
Mizoram	163	155	7	1	10096	0	9850
Nagaland	1400	672	728	0	33966	0	15965
Odisha	4260	4145	114	1	8299498	2330161	1284218

Puducherry	61	53	8	0	75796	13793	30
Punjab	3951	3511	30	410	2306206	389171	9246
Rajasthan	9022	9007	4	11	7507272	1068843	1164266
Sikkim	201	199	2	0	34147	2295	13091
Tamil Nadu	4533	4530	1	2	10645032	1663640	151493
Telangana	909	908	0	1	2904180	331812	306579
The Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	20	18	1	1	11264	547	5994
Tripura	559	559	0	0	402338	80610	159844
Uttar Pradesh	8662	7830	797	35	10981984	1613594	117130
Uttarakhand	1294	1004	289	1	1216692	250384	55692
West Bengal	5754	4848	805	101	4793714	710621	629120
Total	1,11,503	1,06,197	3,851	1,455	14,09,06,930	1,72,87,070	1,00,26,881

Annexure-II

Agricultural credit in India is provided through a multi-tier cooperative structure consisting of State Cooperative Banks (StCBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). The National Federation of State Co-operative Banks Ltd. (NAFSCOB), working in collaboration with Ministry of Cooperation is national-level cooperative organization to facilitate the operations of State and Central Co-operative Banks. As per NAFSCOB's Annual Report 2024-25, the details of short-term and long-term Agricultural Credit are as under:

Short-Term Agricultural Credit

Short-term credit is primarily facilitated through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme and the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS).

- Total Reach: KCCs facilitate short-term loans for approximately 7.7 crore farmers, including fishermen and dairy farmers.
- Annual Progress (2024-25): During the 2024-25 year, cooperative banks issued 3,34,29,368 KCCs, with a sanctioned amount of ₹2,20,260.24 crore.
- Cumulative Progress: So far, cooperative banks have issued a total of 53,63,82,997 cards up to March 2025.
- State-wise KCC Progress (2024-25): High-performing states in terms of cards issued include:
 - Madhya Pradesh: 4,015,609 cards.
 - Karnataka: 3,601,022 cards.
 - Maharashtra: 3,591,512 cards.
 - Odisha: 3,207,239 cards.
 - Rajasthan: 3,531,033 cards.
- PACS Borrowers: As of March 31, 2024, there were 4.95 crore borrowing members in PACS.

Long-Term Agricultural Credit

Long-term credit is supported through schemes such as the Long Term Rural Credit Fund (LTRCF) and specific government initiatives.

- Farmer Reach: The PM-Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana is expected to facilitate the availability of both long-term and short-term credit to approximately 1.7 crore farmers.
- Institutional Refinance: NABARD provides long-term refinance to StCBs for investment credit in agriculture. In 2024-25, the interest rate for this refinance was set at 5.50% p.a., with a mandate that 25% of the fund corpus be utilized in identified districts with low credit flow.

Year-wise Details

Further, as per NAFSCOB JOURNAL OF RURAL COOPERATIVE CREDIT AND BANKING, Year-wise and category-wise breakdowns for borrowing members within the PACS structure.

Year	Total Borrowers
2019–20	52,554
2020–21	53,653
2021–22	48,348
2022–23	49,228
2023–24	49,497

State-wise Utilization of Credit Limits (2024-25)

The aggregate credit limits utilized for financing Short-Term Seasonal Agricultural Operations (ST-SAO) through StCBs on behalf of DCCBs stood at ₹32,085.60 crore for 2024-25.

Top States by ST-SAO Utilization (₹ in crore):

- Madhya Pradesh: 4,430.00
- Odisha: 4,110.00
- Karnataka: 3,236.1
- Tamil Nadu: 2,825.26
- Rajasthan: 2,750.00

Annexure-III**PACS Computerization**

S. No	State/UTs	Total Sanctioned PACS	ERP Onboarded	ERP Go Live	Day End Completed	Audit Completed	Total amount released in Cr.
1	Maharashtra	12178	12028	12011	12000	11949	130.73
2	Bihar	4495	4478	4475	4471	4364	51.76
3	Gujarat	6216	5705	5575	5458	4724	93.97
4	Andhra Pradesh	2037	2021	2021	2017	2016	37.41
5	Chhattisgarh	2028	2028	2028	2028	1975	28.35
6	Rajasthan	8525	6157	6153	5860	3828	84.83
7	Jharkhand	2797	1479	1491	1461	1378	34.30
8	Punjab	3482	3172	2760	2385	786	32.94
9	Madhya Pradesh	5455	4532	4524	4530	4492	66.43
10	J&K	708	537	537	537	537	10.37
11	Himachal Pradesh	1885	1376	1234	1210	608	28.25
12	Haryana	710	624	580	568	454	8.79
13	Uttar Pradesh	6257	3061	3052	2922	2110	67.10
14	Karnataka	5894	4337	3690	3606	3252	67.83
15	Assam	850	577	576	569	566	17.02
16	Tripura	475	267	247	262	197	8.21
17	Sikkim	131	107	107	107	105	3.28
18	Goa	86	51	46	41	37	1.19
19	Puducherry	45	45	45	45	30	0.67
20	ANI	46	46	46	46	46	0.69
21	Mizoram	99	25	25	25	24	1.27
22	Ladakh	10	10	10	10	10	0.12

23	Nagaland	231	102	67	53	17	4.43
24	DNH & DD	9	4	4	4	4	0.12
25	Arunachal Pradesh	139	13	13	13	13	1.22
26	Uttarakhand	1216	669	668	589	469	5.69
27	Manipur	308	199	195	196	128	3.14
28	Meghalaya	330	11	9	10	4	2.34
29	Tamil Nadu	4561	4509	4508	4509	529	51.73
30	West Bengal	4187	3308	3145	2874	208	45.79
31	Odisha	4240	0	0	0	0	18.07
Grand Total		79630	61478	59842	58406	44860	908.06

ARDB Computerization

S.No.	State	Total ARDBs	Total Hardware Target to be Delivered	Hardware Delivered	Total Fund released (Cr.)
1	Gujarat	195	440	440	0.82
2	Haryana	90	203	0	0.76
3	Himachal Pradesh	88	202	202	1.04
4	Rajasthan	163	351	351	1.14
5	Punjab	113	272	0	0.94
6	Karnataka	207	467	467	1.28
7	Tamil Nadu	216	477	471	1.96
8	Puducherry	2	17	4	0.11
9	Tripura	6	15	5	0.04
10	Uttar Pradesh	342	740	0	1.75
11	Jammu & Kashmir	51	115	0	0.3
	Total	1473	3299	1940	10.14

J &K has opted out of the Project.