

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1130
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th JULY, 2026

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1130 SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to encourage women's participation in cooperative societies;
- (b) the initiatives undertaken in this regard; and
- (c) the outcome achieved so far?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a to c) The Government recognizes cooperative societies as an important instrument for inclusive and participatory economic development especially in economically weaker section of the society. With the establishment of Ministry of Cooperation, Government aims to strengthen the cooperative movement with a special focus on farmers, women and rural development. The Government is encouraging the formation and strengthening of women-led cooperative societies across sectors such as dairy, agriculture, handicrafts etc. Capacity building, training and financial assistance is being facilitated through various institutions and schemes in convergence with other Ministries/Departments. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a statutory organization working under administrative control of Ministry of Cooperation while aligning itself with mandate of cooperative led economic development, implements various schemes to support women-led and SHG-linked cooperatives viz:

- i. **Swayam Shakti Sahakar Yojana:** This scheme aims to promote and strengthen women cooperatives by providing financial assistance for income-generating activities,

entrepreneurship development and capacity building of women-led SHG. The Cooperatives in turn can make onward lending of term loan or working capital loan to women-led SHG.

- ii. **Nandini Sahakar Scheme:** This scheme aims to provide financial support exclusively for women-led cooperative societies engaged in activities such as dairy, livestock, food processing and other allied sectors thereby enhancing women's participation in cooperative enterprises.
- iii. **Yuva Sahakar Yojana:** This scheme aims to encourage young women entrepreneurs to establish and manage cooperative enterprises in emerging and innovative sectors by providing financial assistance and support through NCDC. Under the Scheme, NCDC provides 2% interest subvention on the rate of interest on term loan besides easy financing with women-led cooperative society required to contribute just 20% of the project cost.

Amount disbursed to women-led cooperatives by NCDC during last three years are as under:

S.No.	Financial Year	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in crore)
1	2023-24	711.78
2	2024-25	1356.13
3	2025-26	4926.49
	Total	6994.40
