

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1132
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th JULY 2026

**STRENGTHENING OF PACS, DAIRY AND FISHERIES SOCIETIES AT THE
PANCHAYAT LEVEL**

1132. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is working towards the formation and strengthening of PACS, dairy, and fisheries societies at the Panchayat level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the business activities that primary cooperative societies will be able to undertake due to this initiative of the Ministry;
- (d) the benefits likely to accrue to farmers associated with these societies as a result of this initiative?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) & (b): 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 (NDDB), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and State/UT Governments. As per the National Cooperative Database, a total of 38,138 new PACS, Dairy and Fishery Cooperative Societies have been registered; and 21,292 Dairy and Fisheries Cooperative Societies have been strengthened as on 15.07.2026 across the country since the approval of the plan on 15.2.2023.

(c): Through the adoption of Model Bye-laws by 32 States and Union Territories, PACS have been enabled to undertake more than 25 business activities in addition to their traditional credit functions. These include operation of Common Service Centres (CSCs), functioning as PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSKs), setting up of Jan Aushadhi Kendras, operation of Fair Price Shops, custom hiring centres, procurement and marketing of agricultural produce, seed, fertilizer and pesticide distribution, storage and warehousing, dairy, fisheries and animal

husbandry-related activities, LPG and petrol dealerships, rural water supply operation and maintenance, solar energy projects, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), etc.

(d): These initiatives aim to provide multiple benefits to farmers associated with primary cooperative societies by improving access to timely and affordable credit, agricultural inputs, storage, processing and marketing facilities, and a wide range of rural services at the village level. Diversification of business activities intends to strengthen the income base to enhance the income and financial sustainability of cooperative societies, generate additional employment opportunities, reduce transaction costs for farmers, strengthen value addition and market linkages, facilitate access to Government schemes and digital services, and ultimately contribute to improving the livelihoods and socio-economic well-being of farmers, dairy producers and fishers.
