

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1925
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5th AUGUST, 2026

NEW NATIONAL MULTI-STATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1925 # SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:

SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current operational status of the newly established National Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) dedicated to exports, organic products and seed production;
- (b) the mechanisms adopted for distribution of surplus generated by these societies among their member cooperative societies in accordance with their bye-laws;
- (c) whether Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) are being incorporated as the grassroots collection and service points for these national apex organisations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the specific initiatives implemented to facilitate organic certification and grant small and marginal farmers access to high-value international export markets?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) With the approval of the Union Cabinet, the Ministry of Cooperation has established three national-level multi-state cooperative societies: National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) for exports, National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) for organic produce, and Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) for quality seeds. Cooperative societies at all levels- from PACS to Apex- are eligible to become their members.

Currently, NCEL has enrolled 17,105 cooperative societies from across the country as its members, of which 16,743 are primary-level cooperative societies/PACS. NCEL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 28 States and Union Territories to facilitate cooperation with the States/UTs for promoting cooperative-led exports and strengthening the export ecosystem for agricultural and allied products through NCEL. Since its inception in January 2023, NCEL has exported over 14,89,102 MT of 50 agricultural and allied products, valued at ₹5,866.10 crore, to 38 countries across the globe.

NCOL has enrolled 14,550 cooperative societies from across the country as its members, of which 14,280 are primary-level cooperative societies/PACS. For the promotion of organic-related activities, National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) has signed Memorandum of Understanding with 28 States and Union Territories. Under its flagship "Bharat Organics" brand, NCOL has so far introduced 29 organic products. Bharat Organics products are available through more than 1,000 retail outlets, including Safal Stores, NAFED Stores, Kendriya Bhandar Stores, and Amul Stores across Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru. The products are also available through its Direct to Customer (D2C) portal and on leading e-commerce and quick-commerce platforms. To ensure quality assurance and consumer confidence, Bharat Organics products are tested for more than 245 pesticide residues, and the QR code provided on each package enables consumers to access the test report for the respective product lot. So far, NCOL has achieved a cumulative turnover of ₹ 42.1 Crores.

Similarly, BBSSL has enrolled 38,665 cooperative societies from across the country as its members, of which 37,972 are primary-level cooperative societies/PACS. BBSSL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 26 States and Union Territories for the expansion and promotion of seed-related activities and has obtained seed licences in 17 States. It is presently undertaking seed production, processing, marketing and distribution activities covering 18 major crops and 124 varieties. So far, BBSSL has achieved a cumulative turnover of ₹ 465 Crores.

(b) The distribution of surplus generated by NCEL, NCOL and BBSSL is governed by the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, rules framed thereunder and the by-laws of the respective society. The byelaws of these societies provide for determination of benefits to their members as under:

(i) Chapter 5, clause 55 (2) (a) of byelaws states the following:

“After making appropriation of net profit under preceding sub-clause, the General Body on the recommendations of the Board may appropriate the balance of the net profit for all of any of the following purposes:

Shall aim to pay dividend to members of their paid up share capital at the rate of up to 20 per cent provided that if owing to shortfall in the undistributed net profit in a year, the dividend could not be paid at the specified rate, the General Body may decide a lesser rate on which the dividend shall be paid to members.”

(ii) Clause 58 of the byelaws provides the details of dividend distribution, which are as follows:

(1) The dividend declared shall be paid to the member whose name stands as registered shareholder in the books of the Society on the last day of the co-operative year to which the dividend relates.

(2) Any dividend remaining unclaimed for three years after having been declared may be forfeited by the Board and shall be carried to the Reserve Fund of the Society.

(3) Unpaid dividend shall be payable on application provided the same has not been forfeited.

(4) Dividend shall be proportionate to the amount paid on shares and the period in whole months for which the amount stood to the credit of the shareholder.”

(c) & (d) Currently, NCEL has enrolled 17,105 cooperative societies from across the country as its members, of which 16,743 are primary-level cooperative societies/PACS. NCOL has enrolled 14,550 cooperative societies from across the country as its members, of which 14,280 are primary-level cooperative societies/PACS. Similarly, BBSSL has enrolled 38,665 cooperative societies from across the country as its members, of which 37,972 are primary-level cooperative societies/PACS. The cooperative societies, including PACS, act as grassroots collection and service points for NCEL, NCOL and BBSSL. The member cooperative societies supply agricultural and allied produce to NCEL, supply organic produce to NCOL & market ‘Bharat Organics’ products and are engaged in production and distribution of ‘Bharat Beej’ seeds.

(e) NCOL has formed Internal Control System (ICS) groups with farmers under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) and helps these farmers, including small and marginal farmers, in organic certification. NCOL has signed an MoU with National Cooperative Exports Limited to give farmers access to international export markets. Further, NCEL has created market linkage in 38 countries across the globe to give farmers access to international markets.
