

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 919
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/02/2023**

Promoting Multi-State Seed Cooperative Societies

919. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION (सहकारिता मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to set up and promote a national level Multi-State Seed Cooperative Society under Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 and if so, the details along with objectives thereof;
- (b) whether there is a need to preserve and promote indigenous natural seeds through various cooperative societies across the country;
- (c) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to promote indigenous natural seeds;
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to leverage the strengths of cooperatives and transform them into successful and vibrant business enterprises in the country particularly in Odisha; and
- (e) whether quality seeds production through national level seed cooperative society will increase the agriculture production thereby leading to more employment in the agriculture and cooperative sector and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
सहकारिता मंत्री (SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) , (b) , (c) and (e) : The Government has approved setting up of a new national level multi-state cooperative seed society to act as an apex organization for production, procurement, processing, branding, labelling, packaging, storage, marketing, distribution of quality seeds and strategic research & development in seed sector.

The society is promoted by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). KRIBHCO is the chief promoter of the society. The society will have initial paid up capital of ₹250 Cr. and authorized share capital of ₹500 Cr. The head office of the society will be at New Delhi. This national level multi-state seed cooperative society envisages to involve all forms of cooperative structures and all other means to increase the Seed Replacement Rate and Varietal Replacement Rate by

ensuring the role of farmers in quality seed cultivation and seed variety trials, production and distribution of certified seeds with a single brand name. This initiative is aimed to increase the agriculture production in the country thereby leading to more employment in the agriculture and cooperative sector; reducing the dependence on imported seeds and providing boost to rural economy.

One of the objectives of Multi State Cooperative Seed Society is to develop a system for preservation of indigenous natural seeds to save them from extinction.

(d): In order to realize the vision of “Sahakar-se-Samridhhi”, promote cooperative based economic development model, strengthen cooperative movement and deepen its reach up to the grassroots, Ministry of Cooperation since its formation in July, 2021 has taken various initiatives such as:

1. Computerization of PACS: Process to onboard 63,000 functional PACS on an ERP based common national software with an outlay of ₹2,516 Crore started.
2. Model byelaws for PACS: Model byelaws prepared and circulated for their adoption as per the respective State Cooperatives Act to enable PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities like dairy, fishery, setting up of godowns, LPG/ Petrol/ Green energy distribution agency, banking correspondents, CSC, etc.
3. PACS as Common Service Centres (CSC): MoU signed between Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, NABARD and CSC -SPV to facilitate functioning of PACS as CSCs to improve their viability, provide e-services at village level and generate employment.
4. National Cooperative Database: Preparation of an authentic and updated data repository of cooperatives in the country started to facilitate stakeholders in policy making and implementation.
5. National Cooperative Policy: A National level committee comprising of experts and stakeholders drawn from all over the Country constituted to formulate the New Cooperation Policy to create an enabling ecosystem to realize the vision of ‘Sahakar-se-Samridhhi’.
6. Amendment of MSCS Act, 2002: Bill introduced in the Parliament to amend the centrally administered MSCS Act, 2002 to incorporate provisions of 97th Constitutional Amendment, strengthen governance, enhance transparency, increase accountability and reform electoral process in the Multi State Cooperative Societies.
7. National Cooperative Development Corporation: New schemes for cooperatives launched by NCDC in various sectors such as ‘Swayamshakti Sahkar’ for SHG; ‘Deerghavadhi Krishak Sahkar’ for long term agricultural credit; ‘Dairy Sahkar’ for dairy and ‘Neel Sahkar’ for fisheries. Total financial assistance of Rs. 34,221 Crores disbursed in FY 2021-22.
8. Member Lending Institutions in Credit Guarantee Fund Trust: Non-scheduled UCBs, StCBs and DCCBs notified as MLIs in CGTMSE Scheme to increase share of cooperatives in lending.

9. Cooperatives as 'buyers' on GeM portal: Cooperatives permitted to register as 'buyer' on GeM, enabling them to procure goods and services from nearly 40 lakh vendors to facilitate economical purchases and greater transparency.
10. Reduction in surcharge on cooperative societies: Surcharge reduced from 12 % to 7% for co-operative societies having income between Rs. 1 to 10 Cr.
11. Reduction in Minimum Alternate Tax: MAT reduced for cooperatives from 18.5% to 15%.
12. Relief under Section 269ST of IT Act: A clarification has been issued to remove difficulties in cash transactions by cooperatives under Section 269ST of IT Act.
13. Lowering tax rate for new cooperatives: Announcement made in the Union Budget 2023-24 to charge flat lower tax rate of 15%, compared with current rate of upto 30% plus surcharge, for new cooperatives commencing manufacturing activities till March 31, 2024.
14. Increase in limit of deposits and loans in cash by PACS and PCARDBs: Announcement made in the Union Budget 2023-24 to increase limit from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 2 lakh per member for deposits and loans in cash by PACS and PCARDBs.
15. Increase in limit for TDS: Announcement made in the Union Budget 2023-24 to increase cash withdrawal limit for cooperatives from Rs. 1 Crore to Rs. 3 Crore, per annum, without being subjected to TDS.
16. Relief to Sugar Cooperative Mills: Sugar cooperative mills not to be subjected to additional income tax for paying higher sugarcane prices to farmers upto Fair and Remunerative or State Advised Price.
17. Resolution of chronic pending issues of Sugar Cooperative Mills: Announcement made in the Union Budget 2023-24 to allow sugar cooperatives to claim as expenditure their payments to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016-17, giving a relief of nearly Rs. 10,000 crores.
18. New National Multi-State Cooperative Seed Society: New apex national multi-state cooperative seed society being established under the MSCS Act, 2002 as umbrella organization for quality seed cultivation, production and distribution under a single brand.
19. New National Multi-State Cooperative Organic Society: New apex national multi-state cooperative organic society being established under the MSCS Act, 2002 as umbrella organization to produce, distribute and market certified and authentic organic products.
20. New National Multi-State Cooperative Export Society: New apex national multi-state cooperative export society being established under the MSCS Act, 2002 as umbrella organization to give thrust to exports from cooperative sector.
