

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2525
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/08/2024**

New Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies

†2525 SHRI BHARAT SINGH KUSHWAH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to set up new Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which the said scheme is likely to benefit the farmers towards providing other forward and backward linkages; and
- (d) the likely benefits of the said scheme to farmers?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
सहकारिता मंत्री (SHRI AMIT SHAH)**

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. Government on 15.02.2023, has approved the Plan for strengthening cooperative movement in the country and deepening its reach up to the grassroots. The Plan entails establishment of new multipurpose PACS or primary dairy/ fishery cooperative societies covering all the Panchayats/ villages in the country in the next five years, through convergence of various existing GOI schemes, including Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF), National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Fund (FIDF), etc. This plan is being implemented with the support of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), National Level Cooperative Federations and State Governments. As per National Cooperative Database, till now 2,658 new PACS have been registered in the country since the launch of this initiative.

In order to diversify the economic activities of PACS to make them multipurpose economic entities, Model Byelaws have been prepared by the Ministry, enabling PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities, including dairy, fishery, setting up godowns, procurement of foodgrains, fertilizers, seeds, LPG/CNG/Petrol/Diesel distributorship, short-term & long-term credit, custom hiring centers, Fair Price Shops (FPS), community irrigation, Business Correspondent activities, Common Service Centre, etc.

This initiative will benefit the farmer members associated with Multipurpose PACS in multiples ways, including the following:

- i. Diversification of business activities will expand the size of their markets.
- ii. It will provide them with requisite forward and backward linkages, thus enabling them to realize better prices for their produce.
- iii. It will also help farmers in obtaining credit and other services at the Panchayat/ village level itself
- iv. It will also provide farmers with additional sources of income, thus creating stable livelihood opportunities for them.
