

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2327
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th DECEMBER, 2024

Role of PACS

2327. Shri Raju Bista:

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

- (a) whether any steps have been taken by the Ministry for the role of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) for rural water supply related works, particularly in Kalimpong, North Dinajpur and Darjeeling district;
- (b) whether the State has any role for successful implementation of this initiative, if so, the details of the projects undertaken by respective States;
- (c) the details about budget allocation for PACS, and expenditure details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the rural households and people are getting benefitted from this scheme in the last 3 years and how this initiative is cooperating with Jal Jeevan Mission?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION

सहकारिता मंत्री (SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) and (b): Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) have been made eligible for carrying out Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of piped water supply schemes in rural areas.

The successful implementation of this initiative relies on the cooperation of State governments. States are required to incorporate enabling provisions in their Operation and Maintenance (O&M) policies and identify suitable PACS for engagement in rural piped water supply schemes.

In the case of West Bengal, no PACS has been identified by the State Government to carry out O&M of piped water supply schemes in rural areas. As on 21st November, 2024, total 1,227 PACS have been identified/ selected by 13 States/ UTs to provide O&M services at Panchayat/ Village level, the State-wise details of which are attached at **Annexure**.

(c): This initiative does not include any provision for budget allocation to PACS. However, under the project for Computerization of functional PACS, a total financial outlay of ₹2,516 Crore has been approved by the Government of India, which entails bringing all functional PACS in the Country onto a common ERP based national software, linking them with NABARD through StCBs and DCCBs.

(d): The initiative, started on 11th July, 2023, aims to benefit the rural households through improved piped water supply services, reduced operational disruptions, and enhanced water availability due to PACS-led O&M activities. These efforts complement the Jal Jeevan Mission by ensuring sustainable and efficient water service delivery.

Further, a Pilot Project has been initiated by the State of Madhya Pradesh in District Dhar, where an M-PACS has been authorized to collect water taxes on behalf of the Gram Panchayat on a commission basis.

Annexure

PACS Identified for O&M under Rural Piped Water Supply – State-wise status

S. No.	States/ Union Territories	No. of PACS Identified
1	Assam	285
2	Gujarat	178
3	Odisha	163
4	Jharkhand	145
5	Punjab	118
6	Manipur	113
7	Jammu and Kashmir	100
8	Chhattisgarh	33
9	Maharashtra	38
10	Uttarakhand	36
11	Meghalaya	16
12	Madhya Pradesh	1
13	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
Total		1,227