

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1870
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2025**

Institute of Rural Management Anand

**1870. Shri Chavan Ravindra Vasantao:
Shri Dhairyasheel Sambhajirao Mane:
Shri Sudheer Gupta:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to establish Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) as a specialized National Cooperative University, the first of its kind in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;
- (c) the salient features of establishment of the said university;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to open more such cooperative universities in the other parts of the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to impart and promote cooperative education, training and research and development for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a): Yes, sir

(b): The aim & objective of the proposed University are to impart technical and management education to provide qualified and trained manpower to meet the present and future needs of the cooperative sector, to build capacity including skill development of employees and board members of cooperatives, to promote cooperative research and development and to attain standards of global excellence therein in order to realise the vision of “Sahkar Se Samridhi” and to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country through a network of institutions.

(c): Salient features of the proposed University are as under –

- (i) The proposed University will have a Governing Board at the Apex, headed by the Chancellor. There will be an Executive Council, headed by the Vice-Chancellor, which will be the principal executive body of the university. The other authorities of

the university will include eight principal bodies, namely, Academic and Research Council, Executive Board of IRMA School, Capacity Building Council, Assessment and Improvement Council, Research and Development Council, Board for Affiliation and Recognition, the Finance Committee and Board of Cooperative Studies of each school. All these bodies will work under the supervision and control of the Executive Council.

- (ii) The proposed University will establish sector-specific schools such as dairy, fishery, rural credit, cooperative finance, etc. Each school will be headed by the Dean who will be principal academic and administrative officer for that School. Each school will also have a Board of Cooperative Studies, chaired by the Dean.
- (iii) The proposed University will also leverage mass e-learning platform and technology to impart education and training.
- (iv) The proposed University will act as an apex body to integrate, coordinate, and standardise the academic and research activities of affiliated cooperative institutes and training centres

(d): No such proposal is under consideration.

(e): After creation of the Ministry of Cooperation, the Government has taken several steps for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. These include measures taken to impart and promote cooperative education, training and Research and Development, through National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT).

The Ministry has widened the role of NCCT and apart from regular education & training program like Higher Diploma in Cooperative Management, MBA etc, it has assigned more responsibilities like preparing case studies, conducting research & development in the domain of cooperatives. It is also conducting cooperative awareness programmes at village level (scaling up) to bring awareness among cooperative societies about the various initiatives taken by the Government and Ministry of Cooperation for strengthening of cooperative movement in the country, about Government schemes beneficial for the cooperatives and procedure to avail financial assistance available under those schemes.

NCCT has worked for capacity building of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as Common Services Centre (CSC) to enable them to offer 300 e-services for the benefit of rural citizens. The project was started on 18.06.2024 and ended on 30.11.2024 under which Secretaries of 30134 PACS across the country were imparted training in the areas of effective utilization of CSC services by PACS and its members.
