

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2068
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th MARCH, 2025**

Strengthening of Cooperative Societies

2068 Smt. Bijuli Kalita Medhi:

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

- (a) the details of steps taken to strengthen cooperative societies across rural and urban areas in the country; and
- (b) whether there are any plans to introduce new schemes or policies to support digital transformation and modernization of cooperative societies?

ANSWER

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

(a) In order to strengthen cooperative societies and to ensure transparency, accountability and good governance in cooperative institutions across the rural and urban areas, various new schemes and initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Cooperation since its inception, which are enclosed at **Annexure**.

(b) The Ministry of Cooperation has introduced new schemes / initiatives and policy interventions to support digital transformation and modernization of cooperative ecosystem including cooperative societies, details of which are as follows:

- (i) **Computerization of PACS Project:** Government of India has approved the Project for Computerization of functional PACS, which entails bringing all the functional PACS onto an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based Common National Software, linking them with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs). The ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based Common National Software brings about efficiency in PACS performance through Common Accounting System (CAS) and Management Information System (MIS). Further, governance and transparency in PACS also improves, leading to speedy disbursement of loans, lowering of transaction cost, reduction in imbalances in payments, seamless accounting with DCCBs and StCBs.
- (ii) **Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs):** To strengthen the long-term cooperative credit structure, the project of computerization of 1,851 units of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) spread across 13 States/ Union Territories has been approved by the Government. NABARD is the implementing agency for the project.

- (iii) PACS as Common Service Centers (CSCs) for better access to e-services: An MoU has been signed between Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited for providing more than 300 e-services such as banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/ updation, health services, PAN card and IRCTC/ Bus/ Air ticket, etc. through PACS.
- (iv) Under the initiatives of the Ministry, a portal for the office of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) i.e., www.crcs.gov.in has been developed and successfully launched on 6th August, 2023. This initiative is aimed to digitize and make the office of CRCS paperless by providing various services under Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act/Rules online, to make the management of MSCSs easier and to enhance transparency & efficiency in the working of the CRCS office. All the working processes of CRCS office inter-alia including Registration, Amendment of Bye-laws, filling of Annual return, branch opening, sale officer appointment, online payments to Cooperative Education Fund (CEF) and Cooperative Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Fund (CRRDF), etc. are being processed through the new online portal in compliance with the statutory requirements of MSCS Act.
- (v) Computerization of Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) of States/UTs: A centrally sponsored project for the computerization of RCS offices in States/Union Territories has been approved by the Central Government on 06.10.2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.94.59 crore for three years w.e.f. 2023-24. This is a part of the umbrella project of “Strengthening Cooperatives Through IT Interventions” of the Ministry. The objectives of the project are to enhance the ease of doing business for Cooperative Societies and create a digital ecosystem for transparent & paperless transactions of cooperative societies with the RCS offices in all States/Union Territories. The software developed under this project will be as per the Cooperative Acts of the respective States/UTs.
- (vi) NABARD as part of its developmental role, had facilitated the Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) to onboard the Core Banking Solution (CBS) in 2011. 211 RCBs are availing of services of two CBS clouds facilitated by NABARD. Currently, NABARD is also facilitating these banks to upgrade their CBS systems.
- (vii) With the approval of Reserve Bank of India, a non-banking financial company (NBFC) viz. National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC), has been set up as an Umbrella Organization (UO) for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCB) in India. It aims to digitally transform the India’s Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) sector as a major player in the country’s financial system by providing a robust and reliable IT infrastructure that can significantly reduce IT costs for UCBs while enabling them to provide modern digital banking products based on latest technology.
- (viii) A pilot project to promote ‘Cooperation among Cooperatives’ was launched on 21st May, 2023 in Banaskantha and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat. One of the components, of the project is to distribute Micro-ATMs to the dairy cooperative societies after making them Bank-Mitra of the DCCBs to provide 'Door Step Financial Services' and to ensure ease of doing business, transparency and financial inclusion. On the basis of learnings during the Pilot period, a Statewide Campaign was launched in Gujarat on 15th January 2024. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) launched on 19th September, 2024 for Nationwide implementation of the ‘Cooperation among Cooperatives’ Campaign. As on 28.02.2025, 9915 micro-ATMs have been distributed.
