

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2981
ANSWERED ON 10th MARCH, 2026**

National Cooperation Policy

2981. Adv Gowaal Kagada Padavi:

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched or given effect to the National Cooperation Policy 2025 aimed at revitalising the cooperative sector across India, including Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of new primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) or multipurpose cooperatives sanctioned under this policy in Maharashtra for 2025 and the financial allocation involved;
- (c) whether any specific provision has been made in this policy for tribal and border districts (such as Nandurbar Lok Sabha Constituency) to boost cooperative entrepreneurship, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Ministry to digitise cooperative societies, integrate them with national databases (e.g., National Cooperative Database) and improve governance;
- (e) the manner the Government proposes to strengthen the link between cooperatives and agricultural value-chains, dairy and allied sectors in Maharashtra; and
- (f) the timeline by which full implementation of the policy in Maharashtra, (including retrofitting existing societies) is expected and the metrics for progress?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION

सहकारिता मंत्री (SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a): Yes, sir. The National Cooperation Policy, 2025, was launched on 24 July 2025 by the Hon'ble Home & Cooperation Minister. The formulation of this policy has been envisaged to fulfil the mandate of the Ministry of Cooperation - "**Sahkar-se-Samriddhi**." It provides a roadmap for the systematic and holistic development of the cooperative sector. It has 6 strategic pillars, 16 objectives, and 83 recommendations.

(b): The National Cooperation Policy, 2025, provides a roadmap and contains policy recommendations to achieve the objectives outlined in the policy. It does not prescribe the number of primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) or multipurpose cooperatives to be formed in this country.

(c): One of the six strategic mission pillars of the National Cooperation Policy, 2025 is "Promoting Inclusivity and Deepening Reach". Under this pillar, one of the objectives (section 6.1) states as follows: "To promote inclusivity and member centrality". The recommendation (sub-section 6.1.1) under this objective calls for encouraging the participation of women, youth, small & marginal farmers, and weaker sections (SC/ST, specially-abled, etc.) to foster inclusivity and assign them significant roles in cooperatives. Further, the recommendation (sub-section 6.1.2) under this objective calls for strengthening and promoting cooperatives for the weaker and marginalized sections in sectors like fisheries, dairy, handloom weaving, handicrafts, minor forest produce, etc. These recommendations will strengthen the cooperative movement in tribal districts.

(d): The following steps have been taken by the Ministry to digitise cooperative societies, integrate them with national databases (e.g., National Cooperative Database), and improve governance:

(i) Strengthening of PACS through Computerization: To strengthen PACS, a project for the Computerization of functional PACS with a total financial outlay of ₹2925.39 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 National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through StCBs and DCCBs. A total of 79,630 PACS from 31 States/ UTs have been sanctioned under the project. A total of 61,025 PACS have been onboarded on Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software, and hardware has been procured by 30 States/UTs.

(ii) Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs): To strengthen the long-term cooperative credit structure, the project of computerization of 1,867 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. So far, proposals from 10 States/UTs have been received and sanctioned. Further, GOI share amounting to Rs 10.89 crore has been released to 10 States/UTs in FY 2023-24, FY 24-25, and FY 2025-26 for procurement of hardware, digitization, and setting up of support system.

(iii) Computerization of the Central Registrar's Office: The Central Registrar's Office has been computerized to create a digital ecosystem for Multi-State Cooperative Societies, which is assisting in processing applications and service requests in a time-bound manner.

(iv) Computerization of the office of Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCSs) in States/ Union Territories: Centrally sponsored project for 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 project aims to enhance the efficiency of the offices of RCS and increase the ease of doing business for Cooperative Societies, and create a digital ecosystem for transparent, paperless interaction of cooperative societies with the RCS offices in all States/Union Territories. Under the project, grants are being provided to the States/ UTs for procurement of hardware, development of software, maintenance & upgradation of software, etc. The software developed under this scheme will be as per the Cooperative Acts of the respective States/UTs. During the financial years 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-

26 (up to 20th January, 2026), 35 States/UTs have submitted their proposals, and Rs 26.82 crore has been released as the Government of India's share to States/UTs.

(v) Sahakar Sarathi (Shared Service Entity): Sahakar Sarathi (Shared Service Entity) Private Limited has been established after approval of the RBI to provide a common IT infrastructure to Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) so that RCBs are made digitally-enabled to offer modern banking services to their customers. It has launched 13 services for the Rural Cooperative Banking Sector.

(v) Umbrella Organization for Urban Cooperative Banks: National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Ltd. (NAFCUB) has been established on the approval of the RBI as an Umbrella Organization (UO) for the UCB sector, which is providing necessary IT infrastructure and operational support to around 1,500 UCBs. It has launched various services like Digi Loan and Digi Pay.

(e): The Government is strengthening the link between cooperatives and agricultural value chains, dairy and allied sectors in the country, including Maharashtra, through several initiatives, and some of the important initiatives are as follows:

- 1. Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL):** The Government has established Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) under the MSCS Act, 2002, as an apex multi-state cooperative seed society to support seed production, testing, certification, procurement, processing, storage, branding, and marketing through PACS and other cooperatives. BBSSL has launched seeds under the brand “Bharat Beej”. So far, 33,077 PACS/cooperative societies have become members of BBSSL, including 5,012 members from Maharashtra. Further, BBSSL is in the process of setting up banana tissue culture facilities in Maharashtra, which will ensure the supply of affordable, disease-free planting material to farmers.
- 2. National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL):** The Government has established National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) under the MSCS Act, 2002, as an apex multi-state cooperative society to provide institutional support for aggregation, certification, testing, procurement, storage, processing, branding, packaging, logistics and marketing of organic products through member cooperatives, including PACS/FPOs. So far, 11,823 PACS/cooperative societies have become members of NCOL, including 341 members from Maharashtra.
- 3. National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL):** The Government has established National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL) under the MSCS Act, 2002, to promote exports of cooperative sector products by facilitating procurement, processing, branding, packaging, certification, and marketing in global markets. So far, 13,890 PACS/cooperative societies have become members of NCEL, including 1,036 members from Maharashtra.
- 4. Cooperative-led White Revolution 2.0:** The Ministry of Cooperation has launched Cooperative-led White Revolution 2.0 to expand cooperative coverage in the dairy sector, generate employment, and empower women. The initiative aims to increase milk procurement of dairy cooperatives by 50% over the next five years.

Under the action plan, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has been entrusted to coordinate the establishment of 75,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS) and the strengthening of 46,422 existing societies across the country up to 2028-29, including 5,064 new DCS and the strengthening of 4,187 existing DCS in Maharashtra.

Through these initiatives, the Government is strengthening cooperative participation across seed, organic farming, exports, and dairy value chains, thereby enhancing farmers' market access, improving value addition, and increasing farmers' income.

(f): Timeline for implementation of the policy throughout India, including Maharashtra, has been kept as ten years.
