

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1488
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12/12/2023**

Online Platform for Cooperative

1488. SHRI D.K. SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation to put up a legal and institutional framework for co-operatives and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to introduce online platform/transaction of the entire process of Co-operative societies and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Co-operative societies that have been given online platform so far; and
- (d) whether the Government is taking any steps to provide online facilities to the members of these societies to apply online for loans etc. and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Cooperative Societies with objects confined to more than one State are governed under the provisions of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act (MSCS), 2002 and rules made there under. An amendment has been brought in the MSCS Act, 2002 to strengthen governance, enhance transparency, increase accountability, reform electoral process and incorporate provisions of 97th Constitutional Amendment in the Multi State Cooperative Societies.

In order to introduce online platform/transaction in the functioning of Co-operative societies following initiatives have been undertaken by this Ministry:

- i. **Strengthening of PACS through Computerization:** A project for Computerization of 63,000 functional PACS with a total financial outlay of ₹2,516 Crore has been approved by the Government, which entails bringing all functional PACS in the Country onto a common ERP based national software, linking them with NABARD through StCBs and DCCBs. A total of 62,318 PACS from 28 States/ UTs have been sanctioned under the project. Software is ready and trials have already started in 5,673 PACS in 26 States/ UTs so far.
- ii. **Computerization of the Central Registrar's Office:** Central Registrar's office has been computerized to create a digital ecosystem for Multi-State Cooperative Societies, which will assist in processing applications and service requests in a time bound manner.

- iii. **Scheme for computerization of office of RCSs in States and Union Territories:** To increase 'Ease of doing business' for Cooperative Societies and create a digital ecosystem for transparent paperless regulation in all States/Union Territories, a Centrally Sponsored Project for computerization of RCS Offices has been approved by the Government. Grants will be provided for purchase of hardware, development of software, etc. to the States/ UTs.
- iv. **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) has been approved by the Government. NABARD is the implementing agency for the project and will develop a national level software for ARDBs. Hardware, support for Digitization of legacy data, training to the employees, etc. will be provided under the project.

Further, in order to provide online facilities to the members of the cooperative societies, PACS have been enabled to function as Common Service Centre (CSC). In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited. This will enable PACS to deliver more than 300 e-services being provided by CSCs, including banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/ updation, health services, legal services, etc. to rural citizens of the country. So far, 24,470 PACS have started providing CSC services to the rural citizens which will also result in increase in income of those PACS at the same time.
