



Ministry of Cooperation | सहकारिता मंत्रालय  
Government of India | भारत सरकार



## **Prosperity through Cooperation”**

### **Major initiatives of Ministry of Cooperation**

**(6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023)**

#### **(A) Economic strengthening of Primary Co-operative Societies**

##### **1. Model Bye-Laws for making PACS Multipurpose**

Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah believes that PACS will be more empowered and economically viable when they are multi-purpose. Therefore, under his leadership the Model Bye-laws for PACS were prepared by Ministry of Cooperation after consultation with all States/UTs, National Federations and other stakeholders and were circulated on 05 January 2023. This will increase the sources of income of PACS/LAMPS and create new employment opportunities in more than 25 new sectors like dairy, fisheries, storage, etc. So

far, they have been adopted by 31 States/Union Territories and the work of adoption in other States is in progress.

## **2. Strengthening of PACS through Computerization**

To enhance the efficiency of PACS, computerization of PACS/LAMPS has been started. Total 63,000 functional PACS/LAMPS are being linked with NABARD through a single National Software Network. So far, proposals for computerization of a total of 62,208 PACS have been received from 24 States and 4 Union Territories. For this, a total of Rs 440.31 crore has been released by the Central government to the States for hardware purchase, digitization and setting up support systems. National Integrated Software has been prepared by NABARD. Computerization will start after the procurement of hardware and finalization of System Integrator by the States. Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah believes that this will bring transparency in PACS and will significantly increase public trust in functioning of PACS.

## **3. Establishment of Multipurpose PACS/Dairy/Fisheries Cooperative Societies (2 lakh new societies) in every Panchayat/Village**

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Cabinet on 15th February, 2023 approved this scheme with the target of setting up 2 lakh new Multi-purpose PACS/Dairy/Fisheries Cooperative Societies in the Panchayats/Villages not covered so far, in the next 5 years. Under this, various schemes of the Government of India will be converged at the level of primary Cooperative Societies. Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC), State Level Cooperative Development Committees (SCDC) and District Level Cooperative Development Committees (DCDC) have been formed for the implementation of this scheme. As per the directions of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister meetings are being held by the Ministry with all the States. Action plan related to the establishment of new

Societies has been prepared by NABARD, NDDB and NFDB and work has already started on this plan.

#### **4. World's largest Decentralized Grain Storage Program in Cooperative sector to ensure food security**

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Cabinet on 31st May, 2023 approved the World's largest food storage scheme in the Cooperative sector. Under this scheme, different types of agricultural infrastructure such as godowns, custom hiring centres, processing units, fair price shops, etc. will be created by convergence of various schemes of the Government of India at the PACS level. Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah is giving special emphasis on this scheme as he believes that it will ensure food security of the country, reduce wastage of food grains, result in better price for farmers for their produce and meet various agricultural needs at the PACS level itself. For the implementation of this scheme, a Pilot project is going on in 24 PACS of 24 States/Union Territories with the cooperation of the states, out of which construction work has also started in 12 States. This scheme is being coordinated by Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC), State Level Cooperative Development Committee (SCDC) and District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC).

#### **5. PACS as Common Service Centres (CSCs) for better access to e-Services**

In the presence of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, MoU has been signed on 02.02.2023 between Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited for providing CSC services through PACS, after which more than 300 e-services provided by CSC will now be provided by PACS also. Till date more than 25,000 PACS have been onboarded as CSC and the work on onboarding of other PACS is also in progress. The onboarded PACS are also being provided

training by CSC-SPV and NABARD and over 14,000 PACS have started providing services as CSCs. Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated this project on July 21, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

#### **6. Formation of new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS**

Under the FPO scheme, it has been decided to allot 1100 additional FPOs to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in cooperative sector. Now, PACS will be able to do other economic activities related to agriculture as FPOs. This initiative will also be helpful in providing the members of the cooperative societies with the necessary market linkage to get fair and remunerative prices for their produce. Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated this project on July 14, 2023 at IECC, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

#### **7. Eligibility of PACS for LPG Distributorship**

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry of Cooperation is working with a strong commitment to increase the coverage of PACS. Making PACS eligible for LPG distributorship is an important step in this direction. Petroleum Ministry has amended its rules to make PACS eligible for LPG distributorship, after which PACS will also be able to distribute LPG. Guidelines have been issued for obtaining LPG distributorship by PACS. This will give PACS an option to increase their economic activities and create new employment opportunities in rural areas.

#### **8. Permission to convert Bulk Consumer Petrol Pump operated by PACS into retail outlets**

On the initiative of the Ministry of Cooperation, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has given consent to convert the existing bulk consumer licensee PACS into retail outlets. The Government of India has invited online applications for converting the bulk consumer petrol pumps operated by PACS

into retail outlets, last date for submission of online application is 17.10.2023. This provision will increase the profits of PACS and create new employment opportunities in rural areas.

#### **9. Priority to PACS for new Petrol/Diesel Pump dealerships.**

PACS will also be given priority in new Petrol/Diesel Pump dealerships. Advertisement has also been issued by OMC/Petroleum Ministry for PACS to apply under Combined Category 2 (CC-2). Government of India has invited online applications from PACS for allotment of new Petrol/Diesel Pumps for which last date for submission of online application is 17.10.2023. This provision will increase the profits of PACS and create new employment opportunities in rural areas.

#### **10. PACS as Jan Aushadhi Kendra for access to generic medicines at Rural level**

In a meeting held on June 06, 2023 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah with the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, it was decided to open 1,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by August, 2023 and 2,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by December, 2023 at identified PACS. With this initiative, cheaper generic medicines will be available to the common people at the Village/Block level and PACS will get additional employment opportunities. Interested PACS have been identified and encouraged by the State Government to apply online. So far, 3806 PACS have applied for Jan Aushadhi Kendra, out of which preliminary approval to 2000 PACS has also been given.

#### **11. PACS as a fertilizer distribution center**

On June 06, 2023, in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah with the Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, it was decided to make functional PACS eligible to function as fertilizer retailers. Target has been set to give license to 15,000 cooperative

societies for recognition as fertilizer distribution centres. This initiative will ensure availability of fertilizers to farmers at PACS level.

## **12. Upgradation of PACS as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendra (PMKSK)**

On June 06, 2023, in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah with the Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, it was decided to upgrade the PACS already functioning as fertilizer distribution centers as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSK). It was also decided to make PACS act as drone entrepreneurs for spraying fertilizers and pesticides. Additionally, drones can also be used for property surveys. This will create new business opportunities for PACS and increase their profits.

## **13. Micro-ATMs to Bank Mitra Cooperative Societies with the help of NABARD**

Dairy and Fisheries cooperative societies have also been made Bank Mitra of District Central Cooperative Banks and State Cooperative Banks. To ensure their ease of doing business, transparency and financial inclusion, Micro-ATMs are also being given to these Bank Mitra Co-operative Societies with support from NABARD to provide 'Door Step Financial Services'. Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated this Pilot project on July 12, 2023 with the distribution of the cards to the account holders of the Panchmahal and Banaskantha District Central Cooperative Banks. The target is to implement it nationwide. So far, more than 1723 Micro-ATMs have been distributed.

## **14. Rupay Kisan Credit Card to Members of Cooperative Societies**

A Pilot project has been started in Panchmahal and Banaskantha districts of Gujarat to expand the reach and capacity of Rural Co-operative Banks and to provide necessary liquidity to the members of rural Co-operative Societies. Under this project, Bank Accounts of all the members of the cooperative

societies are being opened in the concerned District Central Cooperative Banks and with the support of NABARD, Rupay-Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) are being distributed to the account holders. Through Rupay-Kisan Credit Card, loans will be available to members of the Cooperative Societies at reasonable rate and members can also use this Card for other financial transactions. This pilot project is targeted to be implemented nationwide in coming days. So far, 53,000 KCCs have been distributed.

### **15. PACS as Paani Samiti**

In order to utilize the reach of PACS in rural areas, on the initiative of the Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has written a Letter to all the States to make PACS eligible as 'Paani Samiti' to undertake the work of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Piped Water Supply schemes in rural areas. This step will strengthen the O&M work of water supply schemes in rural areas as well as create new employment opportunities for PACS.

### **16. Convergence of PM-KUSUM Scheme at PACS Level**

The structure and reach of PACS, which have direct linkage with 13 Crore farmer members, can be leveraged to set up decentralized solar power plants at the Panchayat level. With this, farmers connected to PACS can replace Agricultural Diesel Pumps with Solar Agricultural Water Pumps and ensure their energy security by installing Photovoltaic Modules on the periphery of their land, thereby the reach of the scheme can be extended up to the last mile. Further, PACS and its member farmers will get alternative sources of income. A concept note has been prepared by the Ministry of Cooperation and sent to MNRE on this subject and a meeting of the Secretary (Cooperation) with the Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy has been held on this proposal.

### **(B) Relief in Income Tax Law for Co-operative Societies**

### **17. Reduction in surcharge on Income Tax for Cooperative Societies**

Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has made untiring efforts with the objective of bringing parity between cooperative sector and companies. The surcharge on Income Tax for Cooperative Societies with income from Rs 1 Crore to Rs 10 Crore has been reduced from 12% to 7% at par with Companies. This will reduce the burden of Income Tax on Cooperative Societies and more capital will be available with the societies to work for the benefit of the members.

### **18. Reduction in Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) on Cooperative Societies**

The Minimum Alternate Tax rate for Cooperative Societies has been reduced from 18.5% to 15%. With this provision, now there is parity between Cooperative Societies and Companies in this regard. This will strengthen cooperative societies and Cooperative Sector will expand.

### **19. Increase in limit of Cash Deposits and Cash Loans by PACS and PCARDBs**

The limit for Cash Deposits and Cash Loans by PACS and Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) has been increased from Rs 20,000 to Rs 2 lakh per member. This provision will facilitate their activities, increase their business and benefit the members of societies.

### **20. Tax cut for new manufacturing Cooperative Societies**

New manufacturing cooperative societies commencing manufacturing operations by March 31, 2024, will be taxed at a flat rate of 15% as against the existing tax rate of up to 30% with surcharge. With this provision, now there is parity between Cooperative Societies and companies in this regard. This will encourage the formation of new cooperative societies in the manufacturing sector.

### **21. Increase in the limit of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) in Cash Withdrawal**



Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the guidance of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah Union Government through the Budget 2023-24, has increased the cash withdrawal limit of cooperative societies without deduction of tax at source from Rs.1 crore to Rs.3 crore per year. This provision will save Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) for cooperative societies, which they will be able to use to work for the benefit of their members.

## **22. Relief in cash transactions under section 269ST of the Income Tax Act**

Section 269ST of IT Act prohibits any person to receive an amount of Rs. 2 lakh and above in cash; in aggregate from a person in a day, or in a single transaction, or in respect of transactions relating to one event or occasion from a person. The Income Tax Department earlier treated the 'Contract' between a milk cooperative and its distributor as 'one event' and if the cumulative cash receipt, in all the transactions with that distributor, in the entire year was more than Rs. 2 lakh income tax penalty was imposed on such cooperatives. The Income Tax Department has issued a circular making it clear that now the 'Contract' made by cooperative societies with their distributors will not be considered as 'one event'. With this clarification, cash transaction less than 2 lakhs done by a cooperative society with its distributor in a day will be considered separately, and they will not be charged with income tax penalty. With this, State and District milk unions will now be able to receive payment less than Rs. 2 lakh per day in cash from their distributors and do payment in cash to member milk producers during Bank holidays.

## **(C) Redressal of difficulties faced by Co-operative Banks**

**Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and untiring efforts of the Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, many**

**important decisions have been taken to resolve the difficulties being faced by the Cooperative Banks in their business.**

23. Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) will now be able to open new branches to expand their business.
24. Cooperative Banks will also be able to make one-time settlement of outstanding loans, like Commercial Banks.
25. Additional time limit has been given to achieve the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets given to UCBs.
26. A Nodal Officer has been designated in RBI for regular interaction with UCBs.
27. RBI has permitted UCBs to provide door-step banking services to their customers.
28. RBI has more than doubled the individual housing loan limit for Rural and Urban Co-operative Banks.
29. Rural Co-operative Banks will now be able to lend to commercial real estate - residential housing sector, thereby diversifying their business.
30. Co-operative Banks have been included as Member Lending Institutions [MLIs] of CGTMSE. With this, now the member Co-operative Banks will be able to take advantage of risk coverage up to 85 percent on the loans given. Along with this, the cooperative sector enterprises will also now be able to get collateral free loans from Co-operative Banks.
31. License fee for on boarding Co-operative Banks to the modern 'Aadhaar Enabled Payment System' (AePS) has been reduced by linking it to the number of transactions. Apart from this, cooperative financial institutions will also be able to get the facility free of cost for the first three months of the pre-production phase. With this, farmers will now be able to get the facility of banking at their home with their fingerprints.

### **32. Notification of scheduling norms for urban co-operative banks is being published by the Government**

Urban co-operative banks that meet the 'Financially Sound and Well Managed' (FSWM) criteria and have maintained the minimum deposits required for classification as Tier 3 for the last two years are now eligible to be included in Schedule II of the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 and get 'Scheduled' status. At present, there are 84 banks classified as Tier 3 and Tier 4.

**33.** RBI has doubled monetary ceiling for Gold Loan under Bullet Repayment Scheme from 2 Lakh to 4 Lakh for those UCBs who meet the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets.

### **(D) Revival of Cooperative Sugar Mills**

#### **34. Relief from Income Tax to Cooperative Sugar Mills**

Cooperative Sugar Mills will not have to pay additional income tax on payment of higher sugarcane prices to farmers up to the fair and remunerative price or the State advised price. With this provision, Cooperative Sugar Mills will now be able to give higher price of sugarcane to their members and they will get income tax deduction on this higher expenditure. According to the clarification issued on 25.10.2021, this provision is applicable from 01.04.2016 and since then, farmer members are getting this benefit through cooperative sugar mills.

#### **35. Resolving decades old pending issues related to income tax of Cooperative Sugar Mills**

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and untiring efforts of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, provision has been made through the Union Budget 2023-24 that the payments made by Cooperative Sugar Mills to sugarcane farmers before the assessment year 2016-17 will be allowed to be claimed as expenditure. By this, they will be able to get relief of more than 10,000 crore rupees, thus resolving the income tax issues

pending for decades. For this, a new sub-section 19(1) has been included in Section 155 of Income Tax. CBDT has also issued Standard Operating Procedure in this regard on 27.07.2023.

### **36. Rs 10,000 crore loan scheme through NCDC for strengthening of Cooperative Sugar Mills**

Ministry of Cooperation has launched a new scheme named 'Grant-in-aid to NCDC for Strengthening of Cooperative Sugar Mills', under which Government of India would give grant of Rs.1,000 crore to NCDC during Financial Year 2022-23 and 2023-24. NCDC will use this grant to provide loans up to Rs. 10,000 crores to Cooperative Sugar Mills, which they will be able to use for setting up ethanol plants or for setting up cogeneration plants or for working capital or for all three purposes. So far, Rs. 1,909 Crore has been approved by NCDC for 18 Cooperative Sugar Mills.

### **37. Preference in purchase of ethanol to Cooperative Sugar Mills and establishment of Cogen Power Plants**

Cooperative Sugar Mills will be put at par with private companies for ethanol procurement by the Ministry of Petroleum under the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP). Work is also being done on setting up cogeneration power plants from sugarcane bagasse. With these steps, the business of Cooperative Sugar Mills will expand and in result their profits will also increase.

### **38. Reduction in GST on Molasses from 28% to 5% to help Cooperative Sugar Mills**

The government has decided to reduce GST on molasses from the current rate of 28% to 5%. This will increase the liquidity of distilleries as molasses is the raw material for their operations. They will require less working capital due to lower GST. Cooperative sugar mills which do not have ethanol or distillery plants can earn more profits by selling their molasses to distilleries with higher margins.

## **(E) Three new Multi-State Cooperative Societies at the National Level**

**Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and leadership of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry constituted three new Multi-State Cooperative Societies for Exports, Certified Seeds and Organic Products**

### **39. New National Level Multi-State Cooperative Society for Exports**

Under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, a new National Cooperative Exports Limited (NECL) has been set up as an Umbrella organization to promote exports from the cooperative sector. Cooperative societies from Primary to National level including District, State, National level federations and Multi-State Cooperative Societies can become its members. Through this Society, the Export of farmers' products will be facilitated and the farmers will get better price for their products. For membership of this society Email can be sent on coopexports@gmail.com. Till now, 542 applications for membership have been received. Department of Commerce has also issued a Notification to NCEL for export of 1,43,000 MT of White Rice (non-Basmati) to various countries (Bhutan, Singapore and Mauritius).

### **40. New National Level Multi-State Cooperative Society for Certified Seeds**

Under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, a new Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) has been set up as an Umbrella organization for cultivation, production and distribution of improved seeds under a single brand name. Cooperative Societies (Primary, District, State level) of States/Union Territories can become its members. This Society will increase availability of improved seeds to the farmers, boost productivity of crops and enhance the income of the farmers. For membership of this society Email can be

sent on coopbeej@gmail.com. 5100 applications have been received for membership, till now.

#### **41. New National Level Multi-State Cooperative Society for Organic Farming**

The National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) has been established under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 as an Umbrella organization which will work for production, distribution and marketing of certified and authentic organic products. Primary to National level cooperative societies including District, State, National level federations, Multi-State Cooperative Societies, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can become its members. This will increase production of organic products and increase the profit of the farmers. For membership of this society Email can be sent on cooporganics@gmail.com. So far, 736 applications for membership have been received.

### **(F) Education and Training in the Cooperative Sector**

#### **42. Establishment of Cooperative University**

Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah is of the view that planned development and empowerment of the Cooperative sector can happen only with trained manpower for which it is being planned to establish National Cooperative University for Cooperative education, training, consultancy, research and development. This University will ensure a sustainable, adequate and quality supply of trained manpower and work for capacity building of the existing personnel. This University will be first of its kind, a specialized University in the cooperative sector.

#### **43. New Scheme of Cooperative Education and Training**

This scheme is needed to make cooperative societies strong economic institutions, broaden and strengthen the cooperative movement, build the

capacity of faculty of VAMNICOM, NCCT and JCTC, promote quality research and studies on important areas of Cooperative Societies, improve the physical and IT infrastructure of existing functional cooperative education and training institutes, etc. In this regard, stakeholder consultations have been done and draft scheme has been prepared.

#### **44. Promotion of training and awareness through NCCT**

The National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Cooperation, organizes cooperative education and training programs for personnel, members and board members of Cooperative Societies across the country, including personnel from Cooperative Departments of States/UTs. It conducts these programs through its 20 constituent training institutes spread across the country, out of which VAMNICOM (Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management) is a National Level institute. In addition, there are 14 State level and five Regional Level institutes. NCCT conducted 3287 training programs in the year 2022-23 against the target of 1740 training programs for cooperative participants, workers and professionals across the country. In addition, during this period, the Council provided training to about 2,01,507 participants, which is five times more than the scheduled 43,500 participants. Vocational Development Plans (based on existing DPRs) in local languages for Cooperative Societies are being prepared through NCCT.

#### **(G) New National Cooperation Policy and New National Cooperative Database**

#### **45. Formulation of New National Cooperation Policy**

In order to realize Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Prosperity through Cooperation', Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has decided to formulate a new Cooperation Policy in the country. A

Multidisciplinary and National level committee consisting of 49 members comprising experts and stakeholders from different States and across the Country has been constituted under the leadership of former Union Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu to formulate the New Cooperation Policy to realize the concept of 'Prosperity through Cooperation'. So far, 17 meetings of the Expert Committee have been held, during which detailed discussions were held with the stakeholders and the new National Cooperation Policy is expected to be ready soon.

#### **46. New National Cooperative Database**

Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah believes that a database is necessary for the planned development of any cooperative sector and therefore, the work on developing a comprehensive, authentic and updated National Cooperative Database is being done in a phased manner by the Ministry of Cooperation with the assistance of State Governments. Under the First Phase, mapping of about 2.64 lakh societies of PACS, dairy and fisheries was completed in February, 2023. In the Second Phase, mapping of National Cooperative Societies and Federations was completed. So far, in the last phase, about 7.86 lakh cooperative societies have been included in the database.

#### **(H) Inclusion of Cooperative Societies as 'Buyer' on GeM Portal**

**47.** Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Cabinet has approved Cooperative Societies to be registered as 'Buyer' on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) on 1st June, 2022. Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah e-launched the onboarding of Cooperative Societies on the GeM Portal on 09 August 2022 in New Delhi. Cooperative Societies will now be able to buy from around 60 lakh authentic sellers/service providers available across the country on the single platform of GeM. So far more than 550 Cooperative Societies have been onboarded as buyers on the GeM portal.



Further, Cooperative Societies are also being motivated to register as sellers on GeM.

### **(I) Expansion of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**

#### **48. New schemes for Cooperative Societies started by NCDC**

New schemes for Cooperative Societies have been started by NCDC in various sectors such as 'Swayamshakti Sahakar' for self-help groups; 'Dirghavadhi Krishak Sahakar' for long term agricultural credit; 'Dairy Sahakar' for dairy and 'Nandini Sahakar' for women's cooperative institutions etc. In the financial year 2022-23, NCDC disbursed financial assistance of Rs.41,025 crore (provisional) which is almost 20% higher than the disbursement of Rs.34,221 crore in 2021-22. To enhance the flow of much needed funds to the cooperative sector, NCDC has envisaged increasing loan disbursements to about Rs 3 lakh crore per year over the next five years by increasing its efficiency and geographical spread. All States and State Cooperative Societies can avail loan schemes of NCDC.

#### **49. Government of India approves issuance of bonds worth Rs 2000 crore by NCDC**

The Government of India has permitted National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to issue bonds worth ₹2000 crore with government guarantee, subject to the adherence of specified terms and conditions. Now NCDC will be able to disburse additional ₹2000 crore long term loans at relatively lower rates for the development of the cooperative sector..

### **(J) Strengthening of Office of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies**

#### **50. Computerization of Central Registrar's Office**

The office of the Central Registrar is responsible for administering the Multi State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002. The office of the Central Registrar is being computerized to create a digital ecosystem for Multi-State Cooperative Societies. This will help in processing applications and service requests in a time bound manner through electronic work flow at the Central

Registrar's Office. It will have provisions for OTP based user registration, verification check for compliance with MSCS Act and Rules, hearing through VC, issue of registration certificate and other communication, electronically. Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated this digital portal on August 06, 2023.

### **51. The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023**

The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023 aims to amend Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 to incorporate the provisions of the 97th Constitutional Amendment and to strengthen governance, increase transparency, increase accountability, improve election process, etc in Multi-State Cooperative Societies. This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 7, 2022, and was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee of both the Houses on December 20, 2022. The Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha on July 25, 2023 and by the Rajya Sabha on August 01, 2023. The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023 has come into force from 3rd August, 2023.

### **(K) Other Initiatives**

### **52. Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs)**

To strengthen the Long-term Cooperative Credit structure, the Ministry of Cooperation has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs). It will have various components such as hardware procurement, comprehensive Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solutions, digitization, providing training and support, and maintenance of software, etc. 25 percent of the expenditure incurred in this scheme will be borne by the ARDBs and the remaining 75 percent by the Central and State governments. Computerization will provide various benefits to ARDBs, such as increased efficiency, faster loan disbursement, reduced

transaction costs, increased transparency and lower imbalances of payments, etc.

### **53. Scheme for computerization of office of Registrar of Cooperative Societies in States/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, Ministry of Cooperation has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for computerization of offices of Registrar of Cooperative Societies of all States/UTs. The software developed under this scheme will be based on the Cooperative Act of the respective State/UT.

### **54. Refund to Investors of Sahara Group of Societies**

Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and leadership of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, Ministry of Cooperation filed a Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court and on the petition of the Ministry of Cooperation, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 29.03.2023, directed to transfer Rs 5000 crore from Sahara-SEBI refund account to the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies for disbursement of valid dues of the depositors of 4 Cooperative Societies of Sahara Group (Sahara Credit Cooperative Ltd., Saharayan Universal Multipurpose Society Ltd., Hamara India Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd.).

Hon'ble Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah launched the 'Central Registrar - Sahara Refund Portal' (<https://mocrefund.crcs.gov.in>) in New Delhi on 18th July, 2023. Stockholding Documents Management Services Ltd. (SDMSL) has been engaged to develop a transparent digital system (portal) under the supervision and monitoring of Justice Shri R. Subhash Reddy (Retd.) and Advocate Shri Gaurav Agrawal, amicus curiae, for disbursement by the Central Registrar in compliance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Four

Officers on Special Duty (OSDs) have also been appointed by the Central Registrar for each of the above cooperative societies to supervise the refund process. The process of first phase payment to the depositors has started from August 04, 2023. Till September, Claims for Rs.72,756 Crore have been received on 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' from 1.04 Crore depositors. An amount of Rs.44.47 Crore has been released to 48,327 depositors of Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies.

## **Implementation Strategy**

Ministry of Cooperation has devised a Three Tier implementation mechanism in closed coordination with the States/UTs for the implementation of these initiatives.

A meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee has been held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Home and Cooperation Minister.

Letters have been written by the Hon'ble Minister of Home and Cooperation to the Chief Ministers of all the states for the successful implementation of the Initiatives of the Ministry.

From time to time, letters have also been written by the Secretary Cooperative to the Chief Secretary and other concerned officers for the implementation of the schemes.

**At National Level**, regular review meetings under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Cooperation) are being held with concerned Departments, Agencies and the State Governments. So far 09 review meetings have been held with all the states.

**At State Level**, State Cooperative Development Committees (SCDC) have been constituted under the chairmanship of the concerned Chief Secretary with Principal Secretary (Cooperation), Registrar Cooperative Societies (RCS), representatives of NABARD/NCDC etc. and Heads of concerned line departments. Meetings of State Cooperative Development Committees have been held by 23 states.

**At District Level**, District Cooperative Development Committees (DCDC) have been constituted under the chairmanship of the concerned District Collector with District Registrar Cooperative Societies (DRCS) and Heads of concerned line departments. Till now, meetings of District Cooperative Development Committees have been held by 656 districts out of 763 districts.

More information on the initiatives and related schemes NABARD [[www.nabard.org](http://www.nabard.org)], NDDDB [[www.nddb.coop](http://www.nddb.coop)] and NCDC [[www.ncdc.in](http://www.ncdc.in)] may be contacted.

Secretary (Cooperation) of State Governments, Registrars of Cooperative Societies (RCS) and District Cooperative Registrars of the concerned District may also be contacted for further information.

Information about these initiatives is also available on the Website of Ministry of Cooperation, for which you can visit (<https://cooperation.gov.in>)

**Scan the QR code given below to visit the Ministry's Website and other Social Media Platforms**

