

# Centre to set up two multi-State co-ops: Amit Shah

One for seed, another for exports;  
to integrate PACS with Nafed

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Union Co-operation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday announced a host of initiatives including setting up two national level multi-State co-operatives – one for seeds and other for export. The government has also been working to allow co-operative major National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (Nafed) to bring into its fold village-level Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies (PACS).

Addressing a two-day National Conference of State Co-operation Ministers in Delhi, Shah said an export house is being set

up by Amul, IFFCO, Nafed, NCDC and Kribhco, which will export khadi products, handicrafts and agriculture products to the world market.

“To export the product of the smallest co-operative unit, it will become a multi-State co-operative export house and this itself will take it further,” Shah said.

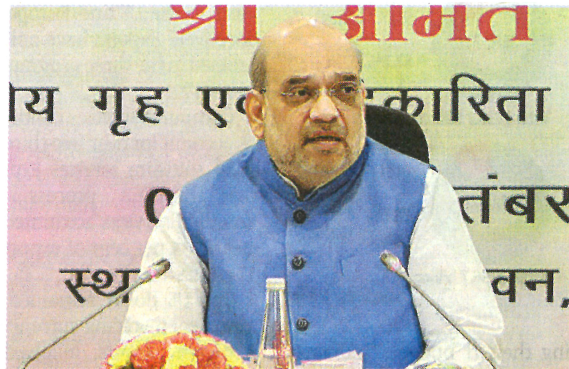
Further, he also announced that the government would form a multi-State co-operative in area of seed production in next two months. “We are going to form a multi-state co-operative – Seed Production Co-operative which will also do research and devel-

opment (R&D), promote and preserve seed breeds and create new breeds,” he said. For this, the government will merge four or five big co-operatives at the national level, he added.

## Amul to certify

“There is a demand for organic products all over the world, but we do not have a system of certification. For its marketing and export, under the leadership of Amul, we are going to form a co-operative to certify and market organic products, which will be a multi-state cooperative, in which all States will be connected,” Shah said.

The Minister further said that with an objective of changing the entire face of Nafed, the government



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Co-operation Amit Shah addresses a national conference of States' co-operation ministers, in New Delhi PTI

wants it to actively integrate the PACS with marketing and the entire marketing profit will eventually reach the PACS.

“If trained manpower is needed then today there is not even a single co-operative university and now

the government has decided that a co-operative university will be formed and under the aegis of the State co-operative union, we will also open one affiliated college in every State so that different types of co-operatives will be able

to train manpower,” Shah announced.

PACS, which are engaged only in disbursing short term credit, should also be able to disburse medium and long term finance as well, even though they have to do so through the State level cooperative bank, the minister suggested. The Centre is also going to create a permanent database and this data bank will be updated regularly, he said.

## Co-operative policy

The new co-operative policy should be framed to ensure all round development of co-operative sector in all States and Union Territories, and also identify new areas, he said highlighting the appointment of a panel under former minister Suresh Prabhu to draft the policy.

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