

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2567
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2024

Construction of godowns under the World's Largest Food Storage Plan

2567 # Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel:

Will the Minister of Cooperation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACSs) have been enabled to construct godowns under the Ministry 'World's Largest Food Storage Plan';
- (b) if so, the details of other agricultural infrastructure that PACSs will be permitted to construct apart from godowns;
- (c) the manner in which this plan will empower PACSs; and
- (d) the specific benefits that farmers associated with PACSs will receive?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) and (b): Under the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector”, PACS have been enabled to create various agri infrastructure, including godowns, custom hiring center, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc. through convergence of various existing schemes of the Government of India (GoI), such as, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), etc.

(c) and (d): The plan aims to significantly empower PACS by diversifying their business activities, creating additional revenue streams, and strengthening their financial viability, thus also benefitting the farmer members associated with them. The creation of decentralized storage capacity at PACS level provides various benefits to farmers, including the following:

- i. They can store their produce in the godown constructed at PACS and avail bridge finance for the next cycle of crop and sell the produce at a time of their choice, or sell their whole crop to the PACS at Minimum Support Price (MSP), which enables them to avoid distress sale of crops.
- ii. They can get various agri inputs and services at the Panchayat/ village level itself.
- iii. Through integration with the food supply management chain, farmers can expand their market size and realize better value for their produce.
- iv. It helps in reduction of post-harvest loss, thus enabling farmers to earn better prices.
- v. Since PACS can also operate as procurement centre as well as Fair Price Shops (FPS), the cost incurred in transportation of food grains to procurement centres and again transporting the stocks back from warehouses to FPS can also be saved.
- vi. In addition to the above, this Plan helps in ensuring food security across the country.
