

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2568
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2024

Establishment of Custom Hiring Centers at the PACS level

2568 # Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any initiative to establish Custom Hiring Centres at the PACS level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this step of Government will provide benefits to the common citizens; and
- (d) the manner in which it will help in strengthening the cooperative movement?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Government on 31.05.2023, has approved the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector”, to be rolled out as a Pilot Project, which entails creation of various agri infrastructure at PACS level, including godowns, custom hiring center, processing units, 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.

Under the Pilot Project of the Plan, construction of godowns has been completed in 11 PACS of 11 States including in the State of Rajasthan where the Ghumudwali Gram Seva Sahakari Samiti Limited in Sri Ganganagar district has set up Custom Hiring Center along with a godown.

(c) and (d): Creation of decentralized storage capacity and setting up of Custom Hiring Center at PACS level not only strengthens the cooperative movement across the country by diversifying the business activities of PACS and creating additional revenue streams for them but also provides various benefits to farmers and common citizens, including the following:

- i. **Easy accessibility:** They can get various agri inputs including agricultural implements and machines such as tractors, harvester, sprayer, plough, etc. at the Panchayat/ village level itself.
- ii. **Agri mechanization:** Easy accessibility of these machines encourages farm mechanization, thus contributing in improving agricultural production & productivity and also improving food security of the county.
- iii. **Reducing the financial burden:** The machines and equipment can be taken by farmers on rental basis from the Custom Hiring Center set up at PACS, instead of purchasing them, which reduces the financial burden on farmers.
