

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 276
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th MARCH, 2025

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACSS)

276. Shri P. Wilson:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACSS) which have been allotted retail petrol/diesel outlets on a priority basis after the formulation of this policy in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the number of applications submitted by PACSS for retail petrol/diesel outlets, and how many have been approved and allotted in Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) whether PACSS have been enabled to construct godowns under the Ministry's 'World's Largest Food Storage Plan', if so, what other agricultural infrastructure can be built and how will this initiative empower PACSS and benefit farmers in Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 276 FOR REPLY ON 26TH MARCH, 2025 ASKED BY SHRI P. WILSON REGARDING PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES (PACSs).

(a) to (b): The Government has allowed Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to operate Retail Petrol/ Diesel outlets. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has revised its guidelines to prioritize PACS under Combined Category 2 (CC-2) for retail Petrol/ Diesel dealership. PACS can apply online against the advertisements issued by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for Retail Petrol/ Diesel outlets.

As per Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, advertisements for new Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships were released by PSU OMCs in June and July 2023. Under the said advertisements, 394 PACS (Open Category: 261, CC-2: 133) from 26 States/UTs have submitted online applications to establish retail petrol/diesel outlets, out of which 44 PACS (Open Category: 16, CC-2: 28) have been issued Letter of Intents (LOIs) by OMCs and 2 PACS in the State of Gujarat and 1 PACS in the State of Telangana have been commissioned. In the State of Tamil Nadu, 37 PACS have applied online for retail Petrol/ Diesel outlets, out of which 4 PACS (Open Category) have been LOIs by OMCs.

(c): Yes, Sir. In order to create decentralized food grain storage capacity in the country, the Government on 31.5.2023 approved the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector, which has been rolled out as a Pilot Project. It entails creation of various agri infrastructure at the level of Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS), including setting up decentralized godowns, custom hiring center, processing units, sorting and grading facilities, cold storage units, packhouses 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. These infrastructures intend to support value addition, improve storage conditions, and enable better access to markets, thus increasing the income of farmers.

Under the Pilot Project of the Plan, a godown of 1,000 MT capacity has been constructed in Silamarathupatti Primary Agricultural Credit Society in Theni district of the State of Tamil Nadu.

Further, the improved storage and agri-infrastructure across the country including the State of Tamil Nadu seek to help reduce transportation costs, minimize foodgrain wastage, and provide farmers with better bargaining power. This Plan intends to enable PACS to enhance their financial sustainability, and economic viability, contributing to the overall development of rural communities.
