

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2884
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26th MARCH, 2025

Status of Cooperative Sector in India

2884: Shri Parimal Nathwani

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- a) current status of cooperative sector in the country, including number of registered cooperative societies, their financial strength, and key areas of operation;
- b) details of cooperative societies functioning across the country, State-wise details including total numbers, performance, and contribution to economy;
- c) steps taken by Government to strengthen and modernize cooperative sector in the country and particularly in states Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand;
- d) the challenges faced by cooperative sector and Government's strategy to overcome them; and
- e) whether any initiatives have been launched to promote digitalization and transparency in functioning of cooperative societies, and if so, the progress made so far?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
SHRI AMIT SHAH

- (a) As per National Cooperative Database (NCD), there are more than 8.32 lakh registered cooperative societies in the country, with 32.8 crore members. These cooperatives operate across 30 different sectors. key sectors of operation for cooperatives in India include Housing, Dairy, Agriculture, credit and thrift, among others.
- (b) Total number of functional Cooperative Societies, state-wise as of 01.03.2025 is **Annexed**.
- (c) The Ministry of Cooperation, established on July 6, 2021, has taken various initiatives under its vision of "**Sahakar-se-Samridhi**" to strengthen the cooperative sector in the country as a whole including Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. Key areas of the initiatives are as under:
 - i) Making Primary Cooperatives economically vibrant and transparent;
 - ii) Strengthening the Urban and Rural Cooperative Banks;
 - iii) Relief to Cooperative Societies in the Income Tax Act;

- iv) Revival of Cooperative Sugar Mills;
- v) Three new National Level Multi-State Societies;
- vi) Capacity Building in Cooperatives;
- vii) Use of Information Technology for 'Ease of Doing Business';
- viii) Other Initiatives

(d) The cooperative sector in India faces few challenges, including financial constraints, governance issues, and regulatory hurdles. Many cooperatives struggle with inadequate capitalization and limited access to credit, affecting their ability to expand and diversify their operations. Additionally, cooperatives face difficulties in adopting modern technology and digital systems, impacting their competitiveness. In order to strengthen cooperative societies and to ensure transparency, accountability and good governance in cooperative institutions across the rural and urban areas, various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Cooperation since its inception.

(e) The Ministry of Cooperation has launched various initiatives to promote digitalization and transparency in functioning of cooperative societies, details of which are as follows:

(i) Computerization of PACS Project launched by the Government of India entails bringing all the functional PACS onto an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based Common National Software, linking them with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs). Further, governance and transparency in PACS also improves, leading to speedy disbursement of loans, lowering of transaction cost, reduction in imbalances in payments, seamless accounting with DCCBs and StCBs.

(ii) To strengthen the long-term cooperative credit structure, the project of computerization of 1,851 units of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) spread across 13 States/ Union Territories has been approved by the Government. NABARD is the implementing agency for the project.

(iii) To function PACS as Common Service Centers (CSCs) for better access to e-services, an MoU has been signed between Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited for providing more than 300 e-services such as banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/ updation, health services, PAN card and IRCTC/ Bus/ Air ticket, etc. through PACS.

(iv) A portal for the office of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) i.e., www.crcs.gov.in has been developed and successfully launched on 6th August, 2023. This initiative is aimed to digitize and make the office of CRCS paperless by providing various services under Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act/Rules online, to make the management of MSCSs easier and to enhance transparency & efficiency in the working of the CRCS office.

(v) A centrally sponsored project for the computerization of RCS offices in States/Union Territories has been approved by the Central Government on 06.10.2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.94.59 crore for three years w.e.f. 2023-24. This is a part of the umbrella project of “Strengthening Cooperatives Through IT Interventions” of the Ministry.

(vi) NABARD as part of its developmental role, had facilitated the Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) to onboard the Core Banking Solution (CBS) in 2011. 211 RCBs are availing of services of two CBS clouds facilitated by NABARD. Currently, NABARD is also facilitating these banks to upgrade their CBS systems.

(vii) With the approval of Reserve Bank of India, a non-banking financial company (NBFC) viz. National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC), has been set up as an Umbrella Organization (UO) for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCB) in India. It aims to digitally transform the India’s Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) sector as a major player in the country’s financial system by providing a robust and reliable IT infrastructure that can significantly reduce IT costs for UCBs while enabling them to provide modern digital banking products based on latest technology.

(viii) A pilot project to promote ‘Cooperation among Cooperatives’ was launched on 21st May, 2023 in Banaskantha and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat. One of the components, of the project is to distribute Micro-ATMs to the dairy cooperative societies after making them Bank-Mitra of the DCCBs to provide 'Door Step Financial Services' and to ensure ease of doing business, transparency and financial inclusion. On the basis of learnings during the Pilot period, a Statewide Campaign was launched in Gujarat on 15th January 2024. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) launched on 19th September, 2024 for Nationwide implementation of the ‘Cooperation among Cooperatives’ Campaign. As on 28.02.2025, 9915 micro-ATMs have been distributed.

Total number of functional cooperative societies in India*Source: - NCD portal as on 01.03.2025.*

S.No	State	Total number of societies	Number of Functional societies
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	2231	1207
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	17884	12694
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1302	789
4	ASSAM	11325	6748
5	BIHAR	26300	17753
6	CHANDIGARH	476	196
7	CHHATTISGARH	10980	9706
8	DELHI	5944	1937
9	GOA	5499	2983
10	GUJARAT	83735	76725
11	HARYANA	33300	14369
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	5439	4542
13	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	10124	8475
14	JHARKHAND	11682	7561
15	KARNATAKA	45292	38928
16	KERALA	18174	14991
17	LADAKH	273	163
18	LAKSHADWEEP	43	31
19	MADHYA PRADESH	53740	26517
20	MAHARASHTRA	222860	216160
21	MANIPUR	11458	5108
22	MEGHALAYA	3152	2712
23	MIZORAM	1320	1082
24	NAGALAND	8017	2149
25	ODISHA	7598	6997
26	PUDUCHERRY	461	428
27	PUNJAB	19237	11579
28	RAJASTHAN	41094	25052
29	SIKKIM	3797	1620
30	TAMIL NADU	22793	20846
31	TELANGANA	60517	48311
32	THE DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND	566	381
33	TRIPURA	3210	1982
34	UTTAR PRADESH	44929	19948
35	UTTARAKHAND	5572	3898
36	WEST BENGAL	31779	22653
	Total	832103	637221