

S.No.	Name of the Scheme
16.	'Use of Plastic in Agriculture.
17.	Integrated Development of Spices.
18.	Integrated Development of Cashew.
19.	Timely Reporting Scheme.
20.	Improvement of Crop Statistics.
21.	Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
22.	Development of Commercial Floriculture.
23.	Development of Mushroom.
24.	Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits.
25.	Development of vegetables including root and tuber <i>crops</i> .
26.	Scheme for foundation and certified seed production of vegetable <i>crops</i> .

Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies

*175. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any action plan to strengthen the Primary Agriculture Co-operative Act and business promotion schemes and to provide more *opportunities for* participation by poor and women of villages through voluntary assistance groups and to deal with the challenges faced by co-operative movement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) "Cooperative Societies is a State Subject under Entry 32 of the State List of the Constitution. The respective States have enacted their own Cooperative Societies Acts. However, there is no such Act as Primary Agriculture Co-operative Act. The Cooperative Societies with objects extending to more than one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State come under the purview of the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. It has decided to replace the existing Multi-State Cooperatives Societies Act, 1984 in order to ensure democratic management Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and autonomous functioning of the Cooperative Societies coming under the purview of this Act.

The Government of India is finalising a National Policy on Cooperatives in consultation with the State Governments with the objective to facilitate all round development of the Cooperatives and their economic viability and to ensure that they work as autonomous, self reliant and democratically managed institutions.

A Scheme for development and promotion of Cooperatives for weaker sections such as Construction Labour, Forest Labour, Rickshaw-Pullers, Washermen, Cobblers, Vendors, etc. is in operation, with the objective to organise cooperatives of weaker sections to improve their economic conditions. Like-wise, a scheme for organisation and development of cooperatives exclusively for women aimed at economic betterment with the objective to focus special attention upon the needs of women and providing assistance for taking up economic activities in agro-based commercial/industrial sectors, is also in operation.

A proposal to revamp the Cooperative Credit Structure is under active consideration of the Government. The concept of Business Development Planning has also been introduced to increase and diversify the business of the Cooperative Societies.

The Cooperative Banks are being encouraged to organise Self-Help Groups within the framework of the Cooperative Sector.

Imparting IT Education

* 176. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that many institutions are sprouting up in different cities and towns of India to impart education in Information Technology;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated quality-modalities or standards for granting recognition to such institutions; and

(c) which body or bodies will be responsible for granting recognition or affiliation to such institutions?