

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2402
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22/03/2023

Industry-academia linkages for cooperatives

2402 Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:

Will the Minister of **Cooperation** be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the nature, function, and current status of the industry-academia linkages program for cooperatives and how most likely this programme will succeed;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any initiatives to ensure industry-academia linkages for cooperatives, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has implemented any other schemes for facilitating knowledge exchange in the cooperative sector, especially in rural areas, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) to (c): Industry-academia linkages for the cooperative societies are ensured through continuous engagement of the sector experts and practitioners in the various training, awareness and other academic programs run by NCCT (National Council for Cooperative Training), an autonomous society under the Ministry of Cooperation.

The industry-academia linkage in training programs is built through an institutional mechanism of Program Advisory Committee (PAC) in the 19 regional and state level institutes of NCCT. PAC is headed by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of the state concerned and other members of PAC include Chief Executives of State Cooperative Unions/Federations, Directors of Industries, Handlooms, Fisheries, Agriculture of the state concerned, industry sector experts, etc.

Further, seminars/webinars with industry/sector experts, lectures from practitioners, industry exposure visits and internships are also organized regularly to further strengthen industry-academic partnership in the cooperative sector.

NCCT in collaboration with NABARD, SOFTCOB Scheme (Scheme of Financial Assistance for Training of Cooperative Banks Personnel) conducted 525 training programs between 2019-20 and 2021-22 for 15,878 participants, who are mainly farmers, to strengthen Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) and other primary cooperative societies. Besides, NCCT also conducted 1165 training/awareness programs between 2019-20 and 2021-22 for 52,139 farmers in rural areas.
