

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1921
ANSWERED ON 20/12/2023

PACS as Common Service Centres (CSCS)

1921 # Shri Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to enable PACS to function as Common Service Centres (CSCS);
- (b) the manner in which G2C services could be provided in rural areas through this initiative;
- (c) the manner in which the benefits likely to reach common citizens by providing these services through PACS;
- (d) whether PACS is capable of functioning as PMKSK;
- (e) if so, the number of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) brought under the ambit of PMKSK;
- (f) the benefits likely to be availed by the farmers therefrom; and
- (g) the manner in which the income of PACS would increase therefrom?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. In order to enable Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to function as Common Service Centres (CSC), a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, which will enable PACS to deliver more than 300 e-services, including banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/ updation, health services, agricultural services, etc. to rural citizens of the country. Till 30th November, 2023, total 24,470 PACS have started providing CSC services in the country.

PACS functioning as CSC will be able to provide various G2C services through the CSC portal, including the following:

- i. **Pradhan Mantri Welfare Schemes:** Ayushman Bharat Yojana, PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, PM Kisan Credit Cards Yojana, E-Shram Registrations, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana etc.
- ii. **Central Government Services:** Aadhaar, PAN Card, Jeevan Pramaan, Passport, Water & Electricity Bill Payment Services, ITR Filing, E-Stamp, etc.

- iii. **State Government Services:** E-District Services, PDS Services, Municipal Services, etc.
- iv. **Financial Inclusion Services:** Banking, Loan, Insurance, Pension, DigiPay, FASTag, etc.
- v. **Agricultural Services:** CSC eAgri Portal, Agri Tele-Consultation & ePashu Chikitsa, Soil Testing Center, Kisan eMart, Kisan Credit Card, etc.
- vi. **E-Mobility & Smart Products:** Rural e-Mobility Dealership, Smart Products, etc.
- vii. **Other Services:** Stree Swabhiman Initiative, SPARSH Defence Pension, etc.

Through this initiative, common citizens, especially in rural areas of the country, will be able to access more than 300 e-services, including the services mentioned above at PACS level itself, which would improve their ease of living. In addition, this initiative will provide additional sources of income to PACS, ultimately benefitting crores of small and marginal farmers associated with them.

(d) to (g): The Government has allowed Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) to operate Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSKs) for ensuring easy accessibility of fertilizers, pesticides and related services to farmers in the country. PACS functioning as PMKSK will help in offering quality agri-inputs, like fertilizers, seeds, farm implements, pesticides, soil/ seed testing facilities, etc., to the farmers under one roof, at competitive prices. Through PMKSKs, information on crop related issues & Government schemes is also made available to farmers. Further, regular capacity building of retailers at Block/District level centres is also ensured.

As reported by States/UTs, 28,648 PACS are currently operating as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSKs) in 18 States/UTs of the country. The Government aims to operationalise PMKSKs in a phased manner, in all the PACS.

PACS functioning as PMKSKs will serve as "One Stop Shop" for farmers, thus improving their access to various agricultural-related inputs and services such as fertilizers, seeds, farm implements, pesticides, soil and seed testing services, etc. This would help the farmers in improving their agricultural productivity, thus enabling them to earn more income.

This initiative will benefit PACS by enabling them to diversify their offerings and hence, providing stable and additional source of income and generating employment opportunities at Panchayat/village level.
