

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1766
TANSWERED ON 07/08/2024

PACS computerisation project

1766 # DR. BHIM SINGH:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the type of software being developed under the PACS computerisation project under the Ministry;
- (b) the types of modules available in the software for the performance of various tasks through PACS;
- (c) how this software will facilitate transparency in the functioning of PACS; and
- (d) the details of benefits likely to be accrued to the farmers because of it?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) & (b): Government of India is implementing the Project for Computerization of functional PACS with a total financial outlay of ₹2,516 Crore, which entails bringing all the functional PACS onto an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based common national software, linking them with NABARD through State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs). So far, proposals for computerization of 67,930 PACS from 30 States/ UTs have been sanctioned, for which Rs. 654.23 Cr. has been released as GoI share to the States/UTs concerned. The National Level Common Software for the project has been developed by NABARD and 25,674 PACS have been onboarded on ERP software in 27 States/ UTs.

In order to increase the viability of PACS and diversify their business activities to make them vibrant economic entities at Panchayat level, Model Byelaws for PACS have been prepared by the Government after consultation with all the stakeholders and circulated to all the States/ UTs on 5th January, 2023 for their adoption by PACS after making suitable changes as per respective State Cooperative Acts. These will enable PACS to diversify their business activities by undertaking more than 25 business activities, including dairy, fishery, floriculture, setting up godowns, procurement of foodgrains, fertilizers, seeds, LPG/CNG/Petrol/Diesel distributorship, short-term & long-term credit, custom hiring centers, common service centers, Fair Price Shops

(FPS), community irrigation, Business Correspondent activities, etc. By adopting Model Byelaws, PACS would be able to serve as multi-service centers, catering to varied needs of member farmers in rural areas. They will help in improving the operational efficiency, transparency and accountability of PACS; providing agricultural credit and various non-credit services to the farmer members thus giving them additional sources of income.

Computerization of PACS project aims to provide a comprehensive ERP solution for entailing more than 25 economic activities prescribed under the Model Bye-Laws for PACS covering various modules such as financial services for short, medium & long term loans, procurement operations, Public Distribution Shops (PDS) operations, business planning, warehousing, merchandising, borrowings, asset management, human resource management, etc.

(c): The ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based common national software brings about efficiency in PACS performance through Common Accounting System (CAS) and Management Information System (MIS). 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. It will enhance trustworthiness in the working of PACS among farmers, thus contributing towards realizing the vision of “Sahakar se Samridhi”.

(d): There are more than 13 Crore farmer members associated with about 1.05 lakh PACS. This project enhances farmers access to short-term, medium-term and long-term credit facilities. Computerization of PACS project also enables farmers to obtain these services at PACS level itself, through inclusion of different modules for various economic activities, as mentioned under Model Bye-Laws for PACS. Now, PACS have been enabled to function as Common Service Centres (CSC) to deliver more than 300 e-services, including banking, insurance, Aadhar enrolment/ updation, health services, agricultural services, etc. at the village level across the country. Thus, it helps in diversification of PACS economic activities, enabling the farmer members to get additional & sustainable sources of income.
