

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1768
ANSWERED ON 07/08/2024

Custom Hiring Centres at PACS level

1768 # SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:
DR. DINESH SHARMA

Will the Minister of COOPERATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiative to open Custom hiring centres at the PACS level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the benefits to the common citizens and farmers from this step of Government; and
- (d) in what manner it will help in strengthening the cooperative movement?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION
(SHRI AMIT SHAH)

(a) to (d): In order to transform Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) into vibrant economic entities at Panchayat/ village level and to diversify their business activities, Model bye-laws have been framed by Ministry in consultation with all the States/Union Territories, Central Government Ministries, NABARD, National Level Federations, State Cooperative Banks, District Central Cooperative Banks, etc. Model bye-laws were 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. Model bye-laws enables PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities, including custom hiring center, dairy, fishery, setting up godowns, procurement of foodgrains, fertilizers, seeds, LPG/CNG/Petrol/Diesel distributorship, short-term & long-term credit, custom hiring centers, Fair Price Shops (FPS), community irrigation, Business Correspondent activities, Common Service Centre, etc.

By adoption of Model bye-laws Multipurpose PACS are now able to provide custom hiring services such as farm machinery, tractors, tillers, etc. These Custom Hiring Centers at Multipurpose PACS provide modern agricultural equipment to the farmer members and thereby increasing their agricultural produce and income.

By adopting Model bye-laws, PACS are now able to serve as Multi-Service Centers & improve their operational efficiency, transparency and accountability and provide short-term & long-term credit and various non-credit services, etc. to crores of farmer members in rural areas. It also enables PACS in diversification of economic activities and to generate additional & sustainable sources of income for farmers.

Further, Ministry of Cooperation is implementing Pilot project on World's Largest grain storage scheme under PACS. The project is being implemented through convergence of various Government of India Schemes such as Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure (AMI), Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM). Under SMAM Scheme subsidy is provided for setting up of custom hiring centres. Now, farmers are provided facilities for grain storage, custom hiring centre, fair price shop at PACS etc.

These initiatives also help in strengthening the cooperative movement as it enables PACS to provide farmer members all over the country with requisite forward and backward linkages to market their produce and realise better prices, obtain credit and other services at the Panchayat/ village level itself, generate multiple and stable revenue streams for them.
