STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2022-2023)

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24)'

Action-taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2022-23)

SIXTY - FIFTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI AUGUST 2023/SHRAVANA, 1945 (Saka)

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SIXTY-FIFTH REPORT

Presented to Lok Sabha on Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on

10.08.2023 10.08.2023



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NEW DELHI AUGUST 2023/SHRAVANA, 1945 (Saka)



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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (2022-23)

SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR- CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

- 2. Shri Horen Sing Bey
- 3. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
- 4. Shri Kanakmal Katara
- Shri Abu Taher Khan
- 6. Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu
- 7. Shri Mohan Mandavi
- 8. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
- 9. Smt. Sharda Anilkumar Patel
- 10. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
- 11. Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil
- 12. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
- 13. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
- 14. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
- 15. Mohammad Sadique
- 16. Shri Devendra Singh alias Bhole Singh
- 17. Shri Virendra Singh
- 18. Shri V.K. Sreekandan
- 19. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav
- 20. VACANT[#]
- 21. VACANT*

RAJYA SABHA

- 22. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
- 23. Shri Masthan Rao Beeda
- 24. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
- 25. Shri S. Kalyanasundaram
- 26. Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
- 27. Shri Kailash Soni
- 28. Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala
- 29. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
- 30. Shri Vaiko
- 31. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav

[#] Vacant w.e.f. 10.10.2022 due to demise of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav on 10.10.2022.[Bulletin-Part II, Para No. 5316 dated 14.10.2022].

^{*} Vacant w.e.f.29.04.2023 due to disqualification of Shri Afzal Ansari from Lok Sabha Membership from the date of his conviction in terms of the provision of Article 102(1)(e) of the Constitution of India read with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 [Notification No. 21/4(6)/2023/TO(B) Dated - 01.05.2023].

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Shiv Kumar - Additional Secretary

2. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj - Director

3. Shri N. Amarathiagan - Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and

Food Processing (2022-23), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the

Report on their behalf, present this Sixty-Fifth Report on Action taken by the Government

on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth

Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food

Processing (2022-23) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' pertaining to the Ministry of

Cooperation.

2. The Fifty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2022-23) on 'Demands for Grants

(2023-24)' pertaining to the Ministry of Cooperation was presented to Lok Sabha on

13th March, 2023 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 2023. The Action

Taken Notes on the Report were received on 15.06.2023.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on

08.08.2023.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the

Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok

Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix-I

NEW DELHI; 08 August, 2023

17 Shravana, 1945(Saka)

P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

(v)

CHAPTER-I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifty Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2022-23) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24) pertaining to the Ministry of Cooperation which was presented to Lok Sabha on 13.03.2023 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 14.03.2023.

1.2 The Ministry of Cooperation has furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 11 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These replies have been categorized as follows:

(i)	Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government :	Chapter- II (Total- 09)
	Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 11	
(ii)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:	Chapter-III (Total- Nil)
	Recommendation Nos. Nil.	
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Action Taken	Chapter-IV
	Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:	(Total- Nil)
	Recommendation Nos. Nil	
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Final Replies of	Chapter-V
	the Government are still awaited	(Total- 02)
	Recommendation Nos. 3 & 10.	

1.3 The Committee desire that utmost importance be given to implementation of the Observations/Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for the Ministry to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with the reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in Chapter - I and V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

Need for Expediting the Process of Formulation of New Schemes of the Ministry (Recommendation No.-3)

1.5 The Committee in their 56th Report (17th Lok Sanha) had observed / recommended as under :-

"The Committee note that the Ministry of Cooperation undertook an exercise to revamp and replace the Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (CSISAC) with the proposed new Schemes of (i) Digitalization of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS); (ii) Education & Training; (iii) Credit Guarantee Fund for Cooperatives and (iv) 'Sahkar se Samriddhi Yojana' during 2022-23. Government of India approved the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Digitalization of PACS Project on 29.06.2022 and its implementation has already been started. The new Scheme of Cooperative Training is under advanced stage of formulation and appraisal of the Project of establishment of National Cooperative University is under progress. However, the Ministry could not get the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in respect of the proposed Credit Guarantee Fund for Cooperatives and the 'Sahkarse Samriddhi Yojana'. The Ministry has now proposed to formulate a consolidated Scheme afresh for 'Sahkarse Samriddhi' and a new Central Sector Scheme of strengthening of Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs). The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry of Cooperation to accord the highest priority for processing of the proposals relating to formulation of these two Schemes of the Ministry to obtain the necessary approval for implementation to achieve the desired results. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard."

Reply of the Government

1.6 The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

"Against the proposal of this Ministry to formulate Credit Guarantee Fund for Cooperative scheme, Department of Expenditure had stated that there are multiple schemes for providing Credit Guarantee which includes cooperatives too, and advised this Ministry to take up the matter with the Ministries having such schemes for suitable amendments in scheme guidelines for making them easily accessible for cooperatives. In view of the above, Ministry withdrew the proposal of a separate Credit Guarantee Scheme for Cooperatives and did not seek any fund for this in BE 2023-24.

Subsequent to the same, on behalf of this Ministry, Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has included Scheduled Urban Co-operative Banks, Non-Scheduled Urban Cooperative Banks, State Cooperative Banks and

District Cooperative Banks as Member Lending Institutions vide Circular No. 165 dated 18.02.2019 and Circular No. 194 dated 03.02.2022.

The Ministry has after necessary stakeholders' consultation, launched a new scheme named 'Grants-in-aid to NCDC for Strengthening of Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs)' which is being implemented during 2022-23 and 2023-24. Under the scheme, the Government of India is giving a grant of Rs 1000 crore to NCDC, in 2instalments of Rs 500 crore each during 2022-23 and 2023-24. NCDC will use this grant to provide loans up to Rs 10,000 crore to cooperative sugar mills. Under this scheme, loan will be made available to cooperative sugar mills by NCDC for the following purposes:

- a. to set up an ethanol plant, or
- b. for setting up a cogeneration plant, or
- c. for working capital, or
- d. for all three

Rs 500 crore has already been sanctioned to NCDC in the financial year 2022-23."

1.7 The Committee, had taken note of the progress achieved by the Ministry of Cooperation in its efforts to formulate four new Schemes in place of the erstwhile Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (CSISAC), which was to be discontinued w.e.f 2022-23. The Committee were informed inter-alia by the Ministry that it could not get the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for the proposed Credit Guarantee Fund for Cooperatives and the 'Sahkarse Samriddhi Yojana'. The Committee were further informed that the Ministry would formulate a consolidated Scheme afresh for 'Sahkarse Samriddhi' and a new Central Sector Scheme of strengthening of Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs). The Committee, therefore, urged the Ministry to accord highest priority for processing of the proposals relating to formulation of the said two Schemes and expressed desire that the Committee be apprised about the action taken in the matter.

In the Action taken Reply, the Ministry of Cooperation has furnished details regarding the position of Scheme of 'Credit Guarantee Fund for Cooperatives' and the Scheme of 'Grants-in-aid to NCDC for Strengthening of Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs)'. However, no details have been furnished with regard to a consolidated Scheme of 'Sahkarse Samriddhi' that was proposed to be formulated afresh by the

Ministry. The Committee, may, therefore, be apprised about the action taken in the matter.

<u>Liquidation of Committed Liabilities of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) (Recommendation No.-10)</u>

1.8 The Committee in their original Report (56th Report /17th Lok Sanha) had observed / recommended as under :-

"The Committee note that implementation of the Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation (CSISAC) has been discontinued. However, as per the approval of Department of Expenditure dated 23.12.2022, the Scheme is under implementation till 31.03.2023 to liquidate the committed liabilities of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The Ministry has also intimated that a cumulative amount of ₹664.96 Crore has been provided at RE Stage against BE of Rs.50 Crore on specific request of Ministry to liquidate the committed liabilities. In the year, 2022-23, Rs.232.09 Crore has already been released to NCDC as on 10.02.2023 for settling interest subvention against alreadv eligible/completed projects. The rest of budgetary provision will be utilized after receipt of funds under cash supplementary within the financial year 2022-23. In this regard, the Committee recommend that the process of liquidation of committed liabilities of NCDC under the CSISAC Scheme including the unspent balances with the NCDC be settled at the earliest."

Reply of the Government

- 1.9 The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-
 - "During 2022-23, ₹662.87 Cr. had been released to NCDC for liquidating its committed liabilities under erstwhile CSISAC Scheme. However, due to non disbursement of subsidy to Telangana Sheep and Goat Development Cooperative Federation Limited (TSSGDCFL), funds to the tune of ₹285.93 Cr. remained unutilized. A token of ₹1.00 Lakh has been allocated under CSISAC in BE 2023-24. Ministry is further taking up the matter with competent authority for liquidating the committed liabilities under CSISAC."
- 1.10 The Committee had taken note that implementation of the Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation (CSISAC) was discontinued w.e.f. 2022-23 but the already committed liabilities of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under the Scheme would be allowed. A cumulative amount of ₹664.96 Crore was provided at RE Stage on specific request of Ministry to liquidate

the committed liabilities. The Committee therefore, had recommended that the process of liquidation of committed liabilities of NCDC under the CSISAC Scheme including the unspent balances with the NCDC be settled at the earliest.

In regard to the above recommendation of the Committee, the Ministry of Cooperation has furnished Action Taken Reply that during 2022-23, ₹662.87 Crore. was released to NCDC for liquidating its committed liabilities under erstwhile CSISAC Scheme. However, due to non disbursement of subsidy to Telangana Sheep and Goat Development Cooperative Federation Limited (TSSGDCFL), funds to the tune of ₹285.93 Crore. remained unutilized. A token of ₹1.00 Lakh has been allocated under CSISAC in BE 2023-24 and the Ministry is further taking up the matter with competent authority for liquidating the committed liabilities under CSISAC. The Committee, taking into account the foregoing, would like to be apprised of the details of all outstanding liabilities to NCDC under the CSISAC, Unutilized balanced with NCDC under CSISAC and progress achieved during 2023-24 towards settlement of liquidation of committed liabilities of NCDC.

New Schemes / Programmes of the Ministry (Recommendation No.-11)

1.11 The Committee in their 56th Report (17th Lok Sanha) had observed / recommended as under :-

The Committee note that a number of Schemes and Programmes aimed at development and growth of Cooperative Societies, are implemented by other Ministries of the Government, i.e. mainly by (i) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. (ii) Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the (iii) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. The Committee have been informed that during the year 2023-24, the Government intends to introduce the new Schemes towards creation of World's Largest Food Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector; strengthening Cooperative Movement in the Country and deepening its Reach up to the Grassroots level and computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDB). The Ministry of Cooperation envisages to play the role of coordinator with all concerned Ministries in the implementation of these new Schemes particularly the Scheme of Computerization of ARDBs to be implemented by NABARD. The Committee in this regard express their earnest hope that the Ministry of Cooperation would strive to establish a robust mechanism for the effective coordination among different Ministries in the implementation of various welfare Schemes for the

promotion of Cooperative Societies in the country. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter."

Reply of the Government

1.12 The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated as under:-

A. World's largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector

- (i) The 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector' was approved by the Cabinet on 31.05.2023. The plan entails creation of various agri-infrastructure including warehouse, custom hiring center, processing units, FPS, etc. at the level of PACS through convergence of various existing schemes of Government of India. The Pilot Project of the above-mentioned scheme will be implemented in selected districts of different States/UTs.
- (ii) The implementation of the scheme would not only address the grain storage deficit in the country, but would also lead to huge reduction in post-harvest losses and transportation costs of food grains. By transforming PACS into multi-service centers having well established forward and backward linkages, it would also enable them to earn higher returns, thus improving the economic condition of millions of farmers in the country.

B. <u>Strengthening Cooperative Movement in the Country and deepening its reach up to the Grassroots</u>

- (i) In order to strengthen cooperative movement in the country and deepen its reach up to the grassroots, Ministry of Cooperation's Plan for establishing new Multipurpose PACS or Primary Dairy/Fishery Cooperative Societies covering all the Panchayats/ villages in the country as the case may be, has been approved by the Cabinet on 15.02.2023.
- (ii) The Plan will be implemented with the support of NABARAD, NDDB and NFDB through convergence of various existing schemes of Government of India. It would provide the farmer members with requisite forward and backward linkages to market their produce, enhance their income.
- (iii) In order to ensure smooth implementation of the plan, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister has been constituted. A National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC) has also been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation. Further, all the States/UTs have been requested to constitute State Cooperative Development Committee (SCDC) and District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) vide this Ministry letter dated 17.03.2023. Further, the Guidelines for the Project have been circulated to the States/UTs.

C. <u>Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs)</u>

- (i) The Long-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS) consists of Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks at State and primary levels, and are primarily engaged in providing long term finance to farmers.
- (ii) In order to improve their operational efficiency, bring uniformity in accounting practices and core aspects of the systems followed in lending, recovery and raising resources, and to aid in their business expansion, a project for 'Computerization of ARDBs' to be implemented by NABARD, under formulation and appraisalby Ministry of Cooperation.
- 1.22 The Committee had taken note that different Ministries / Departments implemented a number of Schemes and Programmes through Cooperative Sector. During the year 2023-24, the Government intended to introduce the new Schemes towards (i) Creation of World's Largest Food Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector; (ii) Strengthening Cooperative Movement in the Country and deepening its Reach up to the Grassroots level and (ii) Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDB). The Ministry of Cooperation envisaged to play the role of coordinator with all concerned Ministries in the implementation of new Schemes. The Committee, therefore, had expressed hope that the Ministry of Cooperation would strive to establish a robust mechanism for the effective coordination among different Ministries in the implementation of various welfare Schemes for the promotion of Cooperative Societies in the country.

In its Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Cooperation has stated inter-alia about the salient features of the aforesaid three new Schemes for Cooperative Sector. However, no specific reply has been given with regard to action taken by the Ministry towards establishment of a robust mechanism for the convergence / effective coordination among different Ministries in the implementation of various welfare Schemes for the promotion of Cooperative Societies in the country. The Committee, therefore, would like to be apprised of the specific action taken by the Ministry with regard to establishment of a mechanism for the convergence and coordination of Schemes implemented by different Agencies for Cooperative Societies. Accordingly, the Committee reiterate their earlier stand in this regard.

CHAPTER - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Budgetary Allocation for 2023-24 (Recommendation No.1):-

"The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry of Cooperation has been allocated Rs.1150.38 Crore as Budget Estimates for 2023-24 against their projected demand of Rs.1945.60 Crore. At present, the Ministry is implementing only one Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Digitalization of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS). The budgetary provision of Rs.968.24 Crore allocated for the implementation of the Scheme for 2023-24 constitutes about 84.16 percent of the BE of the Ministry. The Committee also note that funds utilization of the Ministry during the current financial year remained low till fag end of 2022-23, mainly due to delay in formulation of new Schemes and Programmes of the Ministry. The Committee do hope that the Ministry which is yet to complete the process of its creation, would fully utilize its BE during 2023-24 and also urge the Ministry to take all necessary action for early formulation of Schemes and Programmes planned for 2023-24 including the requisite approval of the Government for effective implementation of Schemes for Cooperatives during 2023-24."

Reply of the Government

"Ministry of Cooperation has utilized 185.71 % (Rs. 1671.36 crore) of Budget Estimate 2022-23 (Rs.900.00 cr.) and 102.87% of Revised Estimate 2022-23 (Rs. 1624.74 Crore) upto 31st March, 2023. Ministry of Cooperation has been allocated Rs. 1150.38 Crore as Budget Estimate for 2023-24 and Ministry is taking all necessary steps for expeditious formulation and roll out of schemes and programmes planned for 2023-24."

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

<u>Utilization of Funds During 2022-23</u> (Recommendation No.2):-

"The Committee note that during 2022-23, the Ministry of Cooperation was allocated BE of Rs.900 Crore and the budgetary support was upwardly revised to Rs.1624.74 Crore at RE Stage. Again, the total budgetary allocation to the Ministry for 2022-23 was further increased to Rs.2056.13 Crore as per the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Ministry. However, till 31.01.2023, the expenditure incurred was only Rs.136.34 Crore, which is about 6.7 percent. According to the Ministry, the progress of expenditure was low till January 2023, as it was a newly created Ministry with an Independent Budget from the FY 2022-23 and all Schemes & Programmes of the Ministry were under formulation during the current year 2022-23. However, the Ministry's expenditure as on 24.02.2023 was stated

to be Rs.513.50 Crore that is 57% of BE of Rs. 900 Crore. The Ministry during its deposition before the Committee exuded confidence that it would be able to make requisite expenditure after receipt of mandatory approvals in respect of the funds to be received by it through supplementary grants at later stages. Against this backdrop, the Committee desire that the Ministry completes all necessary procedural formalities for incurring of expenditure for the total Schemes and Programmes of the Ministry in 2022-23."

Reply of the Government

"In pursuance of the recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee, Ministry of Cooperation was able to utilize185.71 % (Rs. 1671.36 crore) of Budget Estimate 2022-23 (Rs.900.00 cr.) and 102.87% of Revised Estimate 2022-23 (Rs. 1624.74 Crore) upto 31st March, 2023."

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

New Cooperation Policy (Recommendation No.- 4):-

"The Committee note that the Ministry of Cooperation is in the process of formulating a New National Cooperation Policy to realize the vision of 'Sahakar se Samriddhi', promoting the cooperative based economic development model, strengthening the cooperative movement in the country and deepening its reach up to the grassroots. The Committee have been apprised that a National level Committee has been constituted on 02.09.2022 under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu to formulate this proposed National Cooperation Policy. They were further informed that the Report of the Committee would be expected by the end of February, 2023. The Committee in this regard, recommend that the New National Cooperation Policy, which is a cherished vision of the Ministry, be finalized and adopted at the earliest. The Committee would like to be enlightened about the progress achieved in the matter."

Reply of the Government

"In order to fulfil the mandate of the new ministry of Cooperation, which inter alia, includes realizing the vision of 'Sahakar se Samridhi, strengthening the Cooperative movement in the country, deepening its reach up to the grassroots and promoting cooperative based economic development model, the formulation of New National Cooperation Policy has been envisaged to replace the 2002 Policy.

A National Level committee has been constituted on 2nd September 2022 under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, consisting of experts of the Cooperative sector, representatives from National /State/District Primary level cooperative societies, Secretaries (Cooperation) and RCSs from States/UTs, officers from Central Ministries/Departments to formulate the New National Cooperation Policy. The formulation

of New National Cooperation Policy will help in realizing the vision of 'Sahakar se Samridhi promoting the cooperative based economic development model, strengthening the cooperative movement in the country and deepening its reach up to the grassroots. In this regard, consultations were earlier held with stakeholders and suggestions for formulating the new Policy were invited from the Central Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, National Cooperative Federations, Institutions and also from the general public. The National Level committee will analyze the collated feedback, policy suggestions & recommendations to formulate the draft of the new Policy. The drafting committee headed by Shri Suresh Prabhu made presentation to Hon'ble Home & Cooperation Minister on 05.06.2023. Based on his guidance and further consultation with experts, the Committee would finalize draft policy document and the same would be circulated to all the stakeholders including Central Ministries, State Governments and placed before the Cabinet. The New National Cooperation Policy is targeted to be launched in July, 2023."

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

<u>Development of National Level Data Repository of Cooperative Societies</u> (Recommendation No.- 5):-

"The Committee note that different types of Cooperative Societies in the country can be grouped into two broad categories based on their functional jurisdiction i.e., (i) Cooperative Societies under the administrative control of Registrar of Cooperative Societies of States / UTs and (ii)Multi-State Cooperative Societies under the administrative control of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies. At present, the Ministry of Cooperation does not have the authentic data about the number and categories of Cooperative Societies in the country, State / Union territory-wise and District-wise and also about Financial Institutions that provide credit facilities for the developmental needs of Cooperative Societies. Asper the vision of the Ministry of Cooperation, the process has been initiated for developing an exhaustive digital database of Cooperative Societies in the Country namely National Cooperative Database of Cooperatives working in different sectors across the country to bring more synergy with the available various database maintained by Central Line Ministries and State Governments. The Committee also note that NABARD being the implementing agency for Computerization of PACS, is developing the National Level Software, for which, it has finalized the National Level PACS Software Vendor(NLPSV) and Project Consulting Agency (PCA) for the implementation of the Project. In phase-I of the process, data collection of three cooperative sectors i.e. Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Dairy and Fisheries has been started from 01.12.2022. Out of about 2.61 Lakhs Cooperative Societies in these sectors, a database of about 2.58 Lakh Cooperatives have been collected so far. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to pursue the matter pertaining to National Cooperative Database with all sincerity and vigor. They desire that the progress made in this regard be apprised to the Committee."

Reply of the Government

"Ministry of Cooperation has initiated the process of developing National Cooperative Database for about 8.5 lakh cooperative societies working in various sectors across the country. Under Phase-I, the mapping of about 2.64 lakh cooperative societies operating in three sectors – PACS, Dairy and Fisheries has been completed. The mapping of remaining 5.8 lakh cooperatives working in various sectors is in progress."

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

<u>Management of Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS)</u> (Recommendation No.6):-

"The Committee note that as on date there are about1481 registered Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) in the country and 83 of them including five Cooperative Banks
are under liquidation. The liquidation proceedings are time consuming due to legal
proceedings in various courts of laws and other tribunals / forums, involvement of multiple
Law Enforcement Agencies, multitude of stake holders like depositors, employees,
members, etc. The Committee also notice that no liquidation case of defunct MSCSs has
been settled during the last 10 years. The Committee, taking this fact in view, urge the
Ministry of Cooperation to take all necessary corrective measures to protect the interests of
all the Members of these MSCSs at the earliest. The Committee also recommend that the
Ministry of Cooperation may consider to introduce a suitable Capital / Credit Insurance
Scheme for Cooperative Societies especially for the MSCS to protect financial interests of
all stakeholders of Cooperative Societies specifically for depositors Members of MSCSs at
the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in the matter."

Reply of the Government

"The Cooperative Societies registered under the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 function as autonomous cooperative organizations accountable to their members. The multi-State cooperative societies are required to function as per the provisions of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and rules made thereunder, read with approved bye-laws of the society which includes the roles and powers of the members, Board, General Body of the society and Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS). As per the provisions of Section 49 of the MSCS Act, 2002, the business matters such as to admit members, to accept the deposits and investing the same and staff matters including payment of salary to them, etc. fall under the powers and functions of the Board of the society and the day to day management of the society falls under the powers and functions of the Chief Executive of the society as per the provisions of Section 52 of the MSCS Act, 2002. To protect the financial interests of all Stakeholders of Cooperative Societies especially for depositors/ members of Multi-State Cooperative Societies and to strengthen governance, enhance transparency, increase accountability, reform electoral process etc. in

Multi-State Cooperative Societies and to incorporate provision of the 97th Constitutional Amendment, the amendment by supplementing existing legislation in the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Bill is likely to be taken up for passing in the upcoming monsoon session of the Parliament. The Bill, when enacted along with appropriate Rules would help Society in protecting interests of members of MSCS by introducing prudential norms, stronger audit and monitoring mechanism."

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

<u>Functional Status of Cooperative Societies</u> (Recommendation No.7):-

"The Committee note that the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies and Registrars of Cooperative Societies in the States and Union territories are responsible for administration and regulation of Cooperative Societies in the country. There are more than 8.54 Lakh Registered Cooperative Societies including 95,000 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies. The Committee observe that the element of fairness and transparency is reportedly lacking in the functioning of Cooperative Societies under the Central/State/UTs due to various factors including vested interests of certain Members. With a view to bring transparency in the functioning of Cooperative Societies under the administrative control of the States/UTs, the Committee recommend the Ministry to examine whether the Cooperative Societies in States/UTs can be brought under the ambit of RTI Act, as in the case of Multi-state Cooperative Societies. The Committee also urge the Ministry to take adequate remedial measures to address the issues plaguing State Cooperative Societies. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in this regard."

Reply of the Government

"As per the Constitution, the Cooperative societies with objectives confined to one State only are governed by the laws of the respective State Governments and the cooperative societies with objectives extending to more than one State are governed by the central law, namely, 'the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002 (Act 39 of 2002). Out of 8.5 lakh co-operative societies all over the country, only 1541 are multi-State cooperative societies. In so far as the multi-State co-operative societies are concerned, the Ministry of Cooperation has introduced the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which has a provision for appointment of 'Cooperative Information Officer' by Multi State Cooperative Societies for providing information to its members as per article 243ZO of the Constitution. The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill also aims to incorporate the provisions of Ninety-seventh Constitutional Amendment and strengthen governance, enhance transparency, increase accountability and reform electoral process, etc. in the Multi State Cooperative Societies."

Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (Recommendation No.8):-

"The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that the Ministry has circulated Model bye-laws to all States/UTs for their adoption by the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) as per the respective State Cooperative Acts. This will enable the PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities which, inter-alia, include Dairy, Fishery, Setting up of Godowns, Procurement of Foodgrains, Fertilizers, Seeds, Distributorship of LPG/CNG/Petrol/Diesel, Short-term & Long-term Credit, Custom Hiring Centers, Common Service Centers, Fair Price Shops, Community Irrigation, Business Correspondent Activities, etc. It has been informed that the States and UTs have initiated the process for facilitating PACS to adopt the model bye-laws. The Ministry has also intimated that a Plan has also been prepared to converge various existing Schemes of Government of India to encourage/incentivize PACS to become viable business entities. Keeping in view the foregoing, the Committee recommend that matter of adoption of bye-laws by the PACS be taken up with States / UTs on priority basis so as to facilitate early adoption of the Model bye-laws by PACS. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter."

Reply of the Government

"Model bye-laws for Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) / Large Area Multi-Purpose Societies (LAMPS) have been prepared by Ministry of Cooperation in consultation with all stakeholders concerned, including the State Governments. The model bye-laws will enable PACS to undertake more than 25 business activities, including dairy, fisheries, godowns, LPG/ Petrol/ Diesel Distributorship, Common Service Centers (CSC), banking correspondents, etc. They will also improve the operational efficiency, transparency and accountability of PACS. Further, provisions have also been made to ensure a wider and more diversified membership in PACS. The model bye-laws were circulated to all the States/UTs on 05.01.2023 for adoption as per respective State Co-operative Acts. Presently, model bye- laws have been adopted by 20 States/UTs & existing Bye - laws of 3 States/UTs are already in line with model bye - laws prepared by Ministry. Adoption of model bye - laws is in under process in the remaining States/UTs."

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

<u>Progress in Digitization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)</u> (Recommendation No.9):-

The Committee note that a project for digitalization of about 63000 PACS was approved by the Government last year to which Budgetary allocation of Rs. 350 Crore for FY 2022-23 was made. For the financial year 2023-24, Budget Allocation of Rs. 968.24 Crore has been made. The Committee have been told that the Ministry has chalked out a plan to digitalize 63,000 PACS with a Budget Outlay of Rs. 2516 Crore. NABARD is the main Implementing

Agency for implementation of the Project. This Project entails bringing all the functional PACS onto an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based common software, linking them with NABARD through State Cooperative Banks (STCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs). The digitalization of PACS would facilitate Common Accounting System (CAS) and Management Information System (MIS), which would enable PACS to carry out their operations online and obtain refinance/ loans for their various activities from NABARD through District Central Cooperative Banks and State Cooperative Banks.

The Committee have been apprised that proposals for computerization of 54,749 PACS from 24 States & 4 UTs have been received and the Ministry aims to cover 13,000 and 20,000 PACS during the years 2022-23 & 2023-24 respectively. The Committee also take note that the Ministry which received a budgetary support of Rs.350 Crore for the purpose during 2022-23, have utilized Rs.151.92 Crore till 16.02.2023. During the year 2023-24, BE of Rs.968.24 Crore has been allocated for the project. The Committee while expressing their satisfaction over the new initiatives of the Government for computerization of PACS, recommend the Ministry to take all necessary steps to ensure speedy digitization of all the PCAS in a time- bound manner with optimal utilization of funds allocated for the project. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

Reply of the Government

"The centrally sponsored project for Computerization of 63,000 functional PACS with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2,516 crore is under implementation across country. The project 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). This will improve transparency, operational efficiency and governance in PACS through implementation of Common Accounting System (CAS) and Management Information System (MIS).

So far, proposals for 58,383 PACS from 28 States/ UTs have been received for computerization. Gol share amounting to Rs.437.17 crore has been released to States/ UTs for hardware procurement, digitization & support system. Further, Rs. 100 crore has been released to the NABARD for development of the common national software."

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

New Schemes / Programmes of the Ministry (Recommendation No.11):-

"The Committee note that a number of Schemes and Programmes aimed at development and growth of Cooperative Societies, are implemented by other Ministries of the Government, i.e. mainly by (i) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. (ii) Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the (iii) Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. The Committee have been informed that during the year 2023-24, the Government intends to

introduce the new Schemes towards creation of World's Largest Food Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector; strengthening Cooperative Movement in the Country and deepening its Reach up to the Grassroots level and computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDB). The Ministry of Cooperation envisages to play the role of coordinator with all concerned Ministries in the implementation of these new Schemes particularly the Scheme of Computerization of ARDBs to be implemented by NABARD. The Committee in this regard express their earnest hope that the Ministry of Cooperation would strive to establish a robust mechanism for the effective coordination among different Ministries in the implementation of various welfare Schemes for the promotion of Cooperative Societies in the country. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in the matter."

Reply of the Government

A. World's largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector

- (i) The 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector' was approved by the Cabinet on 31.05.2023. The plan entails creation of various agri-infrastructure including warehouse, custom hiring center, processing units, FPS, etc. at the level of PACS through convergence of various existing schemes of Government of India. The Pilot Project of the above-mentioned scheme will be implemented in selected districts of different States/UTs.
- (ii) The implementation of the scheme would not only address the grain storage deficit in the country, but would also lead to huge reduction in post-harvest losses and transportation costs of food grains. By transforming PACS into multi-service centers having well established forward and backward linkages, it would also enable them to earn higher returns, thus improving the economic condition of millions of farmers in the country.

B. <u>Strengthening Cooperative Movement in the Country and deepening its reach up to the Grassroots</u>

- (i) In order to strengthen cooperative movement in the country and deepen its reach up to the grassroots, Ministry of Cooperation's Plan for establishing new Multipurpose PACS or Primary Dairy/Fishery Cooperative Societies covering all the Panchayats/ villages in the country as the case may be, has been approved by the Cabinet on 15.02.2023.
- (ii) The Plan will be implemented with the support of NABARAD, NDDB and NFDB through convergence of various existing schemes of Government of India. It would provide the farmer members with requisite forward and backward linkages to market their produce, enhance their income.
- (iii) In order to ensure smooth implementation of the plan, an Inter-Ministerial Committee
 (IMC) under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Cooperation Minister has been constituted.
 A National Level Coordination Committee (NLCC) has also been constituted under

the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation. Further, all the States/UTs have been requested to constitute State Cooperative Development Committee (SCDC) and District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) vide this Ministry letter dated 17.03.2023. Further, the Guidelines for the Project have been circulated to the States/UTs.

C. Computerization of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs)

- (i) The Long-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS) consists of Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks at State and primary levels, and are primarily engaged in providing long term finance to farmers.
- (ii) In order to improve their operational efficiency, bring uniformity in accounting practices and core aspects of the systems followed in lending, recovery and raising resources, and to aid in their business expansion, a project for 'Computerization of ARDBs' to be implemented by NABARD, under formulation and appraisalby Ministry of Cooperation.

Comments of the Committee

Please refer to Para-1.22 in Chapter-I of this Report for comments of the Committee.

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

CHAPTER III

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION TAKEN REPLY

Nil.

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH ACTION TAKEN REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Nil.

CHAPTER V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Need for Expediting the Process of Formulation of New Schemes of Ministry (Recommendation No.- 3):-

"The Committee note that the Ministry of Cooperation undertook an exerciseto revamp and replace the Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (CSISAC) with the proposed new Schemes of (i) Digitalization of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS); (ii) Education & Training; (iii) Credit Guarantee Fund for Cooperatives and (iv) 'Sahkar se Samriddhi Yojana' during 2022-23. Government of India approved the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Digitalization of PACS Project on 29.06.2022 and its implementation has already been started. The new Scheme of Cooperative Training is under advanced stage of formulation and appraisal of the Project of establishment of National Cooperative University is under progress. However, the Ministry could not get the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in respect of the proposed Credit Guarantee Fund for Cooperatives and the 'Sahkarse Samriddhi Yojana'. The Ministry has now proposed to formulate a consolidated Scheme afresh for 'Sahkarse Samriddhi' and a new Central Sector Scheme of strengthening of Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs). The Committee, therefore, urge the Ministry of Cooperation to accord the highest priority for processing of the proposals relating to formulation of these two Schemes of the Ministry to obtain the necessary approval for implementation to achieve the desired results. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard."

Reply of the Government

"Against the proposal of this Ministry to formulate Credit Guarantee Fund for Cooperative scheme, Department of Expenditure had stated that there are multiple schemes for providing Credit Guarantee which includes cooperatives too, and advised this Ministry to take up the matter with the Ministries having such schemes for suitable amendments in scheme guidelines for making them easily accessible for cooperatives. In view of the above, Ministry withdrew the proposal of a separate Credit Guarantee Scheme for Cooperatives and did not seek any fund for this in BE 2023-24.

Subsequent to the same, on behalf of this Ministry, Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has included Scheduled Urban Co-operative Banks, Non-Scheduled Urban Cooperative Banks, State Cooperative Banks and District Cooperative Banks as Member Lending Institutions vide Circular No. 165 dated 18.02.2019 and Circular No. 194 dated 03.02.2022.

The Ministry has after necessary stakeholders' consultation, launched a new scheme named 'Grants-in-aid to NCDC for Strengthening of Cooperative Sugar Mills (CSMs)' which is being implemented during 2022-23 and 2023-24. Under the scheme, the Government of India is giving a grant of Rs 1000 crore to NCDC, in 2instalments of Rs 500 crore each

during 2022-23 and 2023-24. NCDC will use this grant to provide loans up to Rs 10,000 crore to cooperative sugar mills. Under this scheme, loan will be made available to cooperative sugar mills by NCDC for the following purposes:

- a. to set up an ethanol plant, or
- b. for setting up a cogeneration plant, or
- c. for working capital, or
- d. for all three

Rs 500 crore has already been sanctioned to NCDC in the financial year 2022-23"

Comments of the Committee

Please refer to Para-1.7 in Chapter-I of this Report for comments of the Committee.

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

<u>Liquidation of Committed Liabilities of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) (Recommendation No.10):-</u>

"The Committee note that implementation of the Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation (CSISAC) has been discontinued. However, as per the approval of Department of Expenditure dated 23.12.2022, the Scheme is under implementation till 31.03.2023 to liquidate the committed liabilities of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The Ministry has also intimated that a cumulative amount of ₹664.96 Crore has been provided at RE Stage against BE of Rs.50 Crore on specific request of Ministry to liquidate the committed liabilities. In the year, 2022-23, Rs.232.09 Crore has already been released to NCDC as on 10.02.2023 for settling interest subvention against already sanctioned eligible/completed projects. The rest of budgetary provision will be utilized after receipt of funds under cash supplementary within the financial year 2022-23. In this regard, the Committee recommend that the process of liquidation of committed liabilities of NCDC under the CSISAC Scheme including the unspent balances with the NCDC be settled at the earliest."

Reply of the Government

"During 2022-23, ₹662.87 Cr. had been released to NCDC for liquidating its committed liabilities under erstwhile CSISAC Scheme. However, due to non disbursement of subsidy to Telangana Sheep and Goat Development Cooperative Federation Limited (TSSGDCFL), funds to the tune of ₹285.93 Cr. remained unutilized. A token of ₹1.00 Lakh has been allocated under CSISAC in BE 2023-24. Ministry is further taking up the matter with competent authority for liquidating the committed liabilities under CSISAC."

Comments of the Committee

Please refer to Para-1.10 in Chapter-I of this Report for comments of the Committee.

Ministry of Cooperation [F.No. 4-7-2023 Budget dated 15th June, 2023]

NEW DELHI; 08 August, 2023 17 Sharavan ,1944 (Saka) P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

ANNEXURE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING BRANCH (2022-23)

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 08 August, 2023 from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Hon'ble Chairperson's Chamber, Room No. 103, 1st Floor, Block - B, PHA Extn., New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar, Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

- 2. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
- 3. Shri Mohan Mandavi
- 4. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
- 5. Smt. Sharda Anilkumar Patel
- 6. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
- 7. Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil
- 8. Mohammad Sadique
- 9. Shri Devendra Singh *alias* Bhole Singh
- 10. Shri Virendra Singh
- 11. Shri V.K. Sreekandan

RAJYA SABHA

- 12. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
- 13. Shri Masthan Rao Beeda
- 14. Dr. Anil Sukhdeorao Bonde
- 15. Shri Kailash Soni
- 16. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
- 17. Shri Vaiko

SECRETARIAT

- 1. Shri Shiv Kumar Additional Secretary
- 2. Shri Uttam Chand Bharadwaj Director
- 3. Shri Prem Ranjan Deputy Secretary4. Shri N. Amarathiagan Under Secretary

2.	At th	e ou	tset, Chairpe	erson	wel	com	ned the Membe	ers to	the Sittir	ng of th	ne Com	mittee.
There	after,	the	Committee	took	up	for	consideration	the	following	Draft	Action	Taken
Repor	ts:											

*(i)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX;
*(ii)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX;
*(iii)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX;
*(iv)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX;
*(v)	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX; and

- (vi) Draft Action Taken Report on Action-taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Fifty-Sixth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)', pertaining to the Ministry of Cooperation;
- 3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the Draft Action Taken Reports without any modifications and the Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present these Reports to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

^{*} Matter not related to this Report.

APPENDIX - I

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE FIFTY SIXTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING (17^{TH} LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	11
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 11	
	Total Percentage	09 81.8%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Recommendation Nos. Nil	
	Total Percentage	Nil
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Recommendation Nos. Nil	
	Total Percentage	Nil
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited Recommendation Nos. 3 & 10	
	Total Percentage	02 18.2%