

Cooperative Election Authority

Information Note February, 2026

No.02/26

06.03.2026

As per section 45(1) of the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 (as amended in 2023), the Central Government, by notification, established the Co-operative Election Authority (CEA) consisting of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and Members not exceeding three including one woman. The Authority was notified on 11th March, 2024.

2. Presently the Co-operative Election Authority (CEA) consists of the following: -

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Devendra Kumar Singh	Chairperson
2.	Shri RK Gupta	Vice-Chairperson
3.	Smt. Monika Khanna, Joint Registrar, CRCS	Member

3. The headquarters of the office of the Co-operative Election Authority is at 9th Floor, Tower 'E', World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029.

4. As per Section 45-I of the MSCS Act, 2002 (as amended in 2023), the Authority shall discharge the following functions, namely:

- i. Conduct the elections of the multi-State co-operative society;
- ii. Supervise, direct and control the matters relating to preparation of electoral rolls; and
- iii. Such other functions as may be prescribed.

4.1 CEA is responsible for preparation of electoral rolls consisting of individual eligible members or/and delegates/representatives as per MSCS Act and Rules framed thereunder and as per bye-laws, conduct of elections of Board of Directors and Office Bearers of the MSCS.

5. Procedure for requesting election: Steps to submit election request through CRCS Portal online are as follow:

- i. Log in to the CRCS portal (<https://crcs.gov.in/>) using the credentials (ID & Password of the Society).
- ii. Navigate to the "Election Request" section.
- iii. Fill the required details completely and accurately in the respective field.
- iv. Attach necessary documents in the portal in PDF and submit the request.
 - a. Election Request signed by Chairperson &CEO/MD of Society;

- b. Resolution of present Board of Directors to conduct election;
- c. Previous schedules of election of Members of Board of Directors and Office Bearers including proceedings of Returning Officers;
- d. Latest approved Bye-Laws of the Society; and
- e. Fact sheet signed by Chairperson &CEO/MD of Society

6. The Authority has issued 309 (Three Hundred Nine) Election Programmes and appointed Returning Officers to conduct election of MSCS till end of February, 2026. Generally, District Magistrate / Collectors are appointed as Returning Officer.

7. 237 (Two Hundred thirty seven) elections of Board of Directors & Office Bearers have been successfully conducted under supervision of CEA, till the end of February, 2026.

8. 72 (Seventy-Two) elections of Board of Directors and of Office Bearers are ongoing as per election program issued by CEA, till the end of February, 2026.

9. During the month of February, 2026, elections of 12(Twelve) MSCS have been completed. The names of the Societies and date of elections of Board of Directors are as under: -

	Name of MSCS	Date of Polling	Elected		
			G*	W*	S*
1	CAD & AAI Employees Cooperative Society Calcutta Ltd., North 24 Parganas	16.11.2025	9	2	1
2	Mahesh Nagari Multi State Cooperative Credit Society Limited, Pune	08.02.2026	12	2	1
3	Mangalnath Multistate Agro Co-operative Society Limited, Majalgaon	15.02.2026	6	2	1
4	Kanhaiyya Multistate Co-operative Credit Society Limited, Ahilyanagar	14.02.2026	6	2	1
5	Arpina Multi State Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Nagpur	17.02.2026	8	2	1
6	Sai Multi State Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Mangluru	15.02.2026	4	2	1
7	Shri Warana Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Prakriya Sangh, Kolhapur	04.02.2026	17	2	2
8	Southern Infrastructure Development & Construction Multi State Cooperative Society Limited, Thrissur	18.02.2026	7	2	1
9	Hindustan Multistate Cooperative Housing Society Limited, Coimbatore	03.02.2026	4	2	1
10	Himalux Organic Multistate Cooperative Society Limited, Dehradun	18.02.2026	10	2	1

11	Krishi Vikas Bahu Rajya Sahkari Samiti Ltd., G.B Nagar (UP)	18.02.2026	6	2	1
12	Aavam Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Banswara	01.03.2026	8	2	1

G* - General W* - Women S* – SC/ST

10. During the month of February, 2026, election programmes (EP) of 10(Ten) societies have been issued as per the following details: -

	Name of MSCS	DM/DC	EP issued on
1	Uttar Pradesh Project Cooperative Limited, Lucknow	Lucknow	02.02.2026
2	Punraj Agro Marketing Cooperative Society Limited, Bathinda	Bathinda	10.02.2026
3	Kallappanna Awade Cooperative Industrial Estate and Integrated Textile Park Limited (Multi State), Kolhapur	Kolhapur	10.02.2026
4	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Employees Cooperative Society Limited, Chennai	Chennai	12.02.2026
5	Lakshit Agro Multistate Cooperative Society Limited, Thrissur	Thrissur	13.02.2026
6	Bharathi Tourism Development Cooperative Limited, Mangalore	Mangalore	13.02.2026
7	Shri Thakur Baba Krishi Kalyan Agro Multi State Cooperative Society Limited, Jhansi	Jhansi	19.02.2026
8	Dhanvijay Agro & Marketing Cooperative Society Limited, Thrissur	Thrissur	20.02.2026
9	Shri Sant Nagebaba Multi State Cooperative Urban Credit Society Limited, Ahilyanagar	Ahilyanagar	26.02.2026
10	Gajvaibhavlaxmi Multi State Agro Purpose Cooperative Society Limited, Pune	Pune	27.02.2026

11. During the month, the Authority held its meetings on 29.01.2026, 05.02.2026 and 18.02.2026. Till February, 2026, Eighty three (83) meetings have been held by the Authority.

12. The Authority has been holding meetings with Societies listed in Schedule-II. Till February, 2026, meetings with the Chief Executive Officers of following Societies/Federation have been held: -

	Name of Federation
1	All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative society Ltd
2	Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd.(TRIFED)
3	National Cooperative Housing Federation Ltd
4	National Cooperative Consumer's Federation of India Ltd

5	National Cooperative Union of India Ltd
6	National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperative Society Ltd., New Delhi
7	National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd., New Delhi
8	National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd., Mumbai
9	National Federation of Labour Cooperative Ltd., New Delhi
10	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited
11	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited

12.1 Objective of these meetings is to align their Bye-Laws with amended Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2023 and Rules framed thereunder.

13. During the month of February, 2026, meetings with the MDs/CEOs of following Multi-State Cooperative Societies have been held:

	Name of the Coop. Society/Federation	Date of Meeting.
1	All India Handloom Fabrics Coop. Society Ltd., New Delhi.	03.02.2026
2	Janseva Cooperative Credit Society Ltd., Mumbai.	10.02.2026
3	Administrator, FISHCOFED.	10.02.2026
4	Vikas Multistate Agro Coop. Society, Palakkad	23.02.2026
5	Fingrowth Cooperative Bank Ltd., Jaipur.	24.02.2026
6	Ahmedabad Mercantile Coop. Bank Ltd.	24.02.2026
7	Indian Agriculture Marketing Cooperative Ltd., Jaipur.	25.02.2026
8	Kisan Kalyan Bhav Seed Federation MSC Ltd., Pune	25.02.2026

14. To get bye-laws of the societies aligned to the amendment made in the MSCS Act in 2023 and to generate awareness about the various procedures and processes concerning conduct of elections, a meeting between Cooperative Election Authority and 18 Railway Employees Multi-State Cooperative Societies was held on 19.01.2026. Chairperson, CEA presided over the meeting. Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies was also present. During the interactive session with Chief Executives and Chairpersons of 18 Railway Employees Cooperative Societies/Banks, efforts were made to resolve various doubts/queries raised by them.

15. Important Decisions of the Authority:

i Restriction on contesting of elections by Central Government Employees:

Decision : The Authority implement the Guidelines for Central Govt. Employees issued vide DOP&T Office Memorandum No. F.No.11013/1/2016-Estt.A-III dated 27th February, 2020, Government employee under the rule **15(1)(c) of CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964, Returning Officer will obtain details of contesting Central Government employees as to whether prior permission to contest**

election has been taken from the Central Government, to accept or reject nomination filed by the Central Government Servant. This condition has been incorporated in the Election Programmes issued from the month of August, 2025. However no sanction of Controlling Officer is required to cast vote.

ii Limit on number of Directors in the Board, who are in blood relation.

Decision: It was felt that all nominations from same family will severely impair the functioning of Board of Director, keeping in view provision of Section 41 (6) which prohibits participation of Directors in the Board Meeting in case of decision relating to contract, requirement etc. It is not advisable that majority of number of Board of Directors are related by blood. Further, it also provides disproportionate representation to one of the states in the area of operation. Therefore, it was decided to issue direction under Section 45 (L) and Rule 19 (F) (e) to cancel the nomination process, in such situations. Such prohibition will apply in respect of cases where majority of members are related by blood.

iii Voting by nominated Directors to elect Office Bearers in MSCS

Decision: During BISCOAUN elections, on 19th February, 2025, the authority had decided that the nominated Director from Govt. of Bihar under section 48 shall have the rights to vote to elect Office Bearers as more than 99% shareholding in BISCOAUN is from Govt. of Bihar.

iv Disqualification on failure of maintenance of Accounts and lodging of Election Expenses account with Returning Officer within 30 days

The Rule 19U (Account of Election Expenses) and Rule 19V (Disqualification for failure to lodge account of election expenses) forms the part of the Rules under MSCS Rules, 2002 as amended in 2023. In view of the fact that the Authority is not receiving the account statements as required under Rule 19U, 19V and 19W, the Authority also made it a part of Election Programme to bring it to the notice of Returning Officer and contesting candidate for its compliance.

v. Under Rule 19F(c), the CEA has laid down following code of conduct on 11th November, 2025 on the Multi State Cooperative Societies whose election is being conducted:

i. Use of Vehicle of the Society during election period

It has been decided in the 74th meeting of the Cooperative Election Authority held on 06.11.2025 that Society's vehicle which has been allotted/provided to Office Bearers (Chairman/Vice-Chairman or President/Vice-President) cannot be used for canvassing/election related purposes. These instructions will apply for a period of 30 days i.e. 30 days prior to date of polling.

ii. **Convening of Board meeting during election period**

The Cooperative Election Authority in its 74th meeting held on 06.11.2025 decided that meeting of Board of Directors (BoD) of the society under election process, may be convened in respect of all agenda items except agenda which do not influence voting by members and election outcome in the said election.

CEO may take prior approval of the Returning Officer about the agenda items to be placed in the Board.

vi. **Eligibility to cast vote and contest elections for MSCS Banks**

While conducting election for AP Mahesh Co-operative Urban bank Ltd., questions emerged about (i) eligibility of members as to who can cast vote and (ii) eligibility of members who can contest.

The Authority decided as under: -

“The bank had not amended their Bye-Laws in terms of master circular therefore the Returning Officer was asked to decide on the matter at his end as per provisions of the Bye-Laws of the bank.”

16. During the month of September, 2025, the Guidelines for Appointment of Observers had been issued vide order no. CEA-12011/218/2025 dated 15th September, 2025 and are available on crcs.gov.in.

17. **Revision in the rates of remuneration to ROs/AROs for conduct of election of MSCS**

Taking cognizance of the requests received from various societies, the Authority issued an order dated 16.10.2025 regarding revision in the rates of remuneration to ROs/AROs for conducting the election of MSCS and the same is available on crcs.gov.in. The revised rates of remuneration to ROs/AROs are as follows: -

Nature of Election	Contested Elections	Uncontested election
1. Regular election of Board of Directors including Office Bearers.		
A. All societies in Schedule II.	Rs.50,000/-	Rs.25,000/-
B. Multi State Cooperative Banks.	Rs.50,000/-	Rs.25,000/-
C. Societies where elections of delegates or election to RGB (constitution of Representative General Body) is involved.	Rs.50,000/-	Rs.25,000/-
2. Regular election of Board of Directors including Office Bearers of all other societies.	Rs.40,000/-	Rs.20,000/-
3. Casual Vacancy of Board of Directors.	Rs.10,000/-	Rs.10,000/-
4. Casual Vacancy of Office Bearers.	Rs.10,000/-	Rs.10,000/-
5. Election of newly registered societies with less than 250 members.	Rs.10,000/-	Rs.10,000/-

18. To facilitate the conduct of free and fair election, CEA has prepared the following consolidated instructions:

- a. Preparation of Member List, Nov., 2025
- b. Preparation of Voters List, February, 2026
- c. Instructions for the Returning Officer for filling up Format 19M & 19N

These handbooks are also available on <https://crccs.gov.in>

19. Implementation of amendments in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with regard to maximum tenure of 10 years for contesting the elections as Board of Directors:

Effective from 1st August, 2025, amendment in Section 10A (sub-section 2a(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (BR Act), the maximum continuous tenure of directors of cooperative banks (excluding Chairperson and Whole-time Directors) has been extended from 8 to 10 years.

Instructions in this regard have been included in the appointment orders of the Returning Officers to ensure implementation of this amendment so as to conduct election in transparent, free and fair manner.

Following elections of Multi State Cooperative Banks have been done after 01st August, 2025:

	Name of MSCS	RO	Date of Poll	Elected		
				G*	W*	S*
1	The Mehsana Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd., Mehsana	DM/DC, Mehsana	03.08.25	6	1	1
2	Railway Shramik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Bikaner	DM/DC Bikaner	08.10.25	1**		
3	A.P Mahesh Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad	DM/DC Hyderabad	07.12.25	12	2	
4	Bharati Sahakari Bank Ltd., Pune.	DM/DC Pune	07.12.25	12	2	1
5	The Ajara Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ajara	DM/DC Kolhapur	21.12.25	15	2	1
6	Shri Veershaiv Cooperative Bank Limited, Kolhapur	DM/DC Kolhapur	04.01.26	16	2	1

G* - General W* - Women S* – SC/ST

20. **Seminar on “पारदर्शिता एवं शुचिता से बहु राज्य सहकारी समितियों के चुनाव”:**

The Cooperative Election Authority has proposed to organize a Seminar on “पारदर्शिता एवं सुचिता से बहु राज्य सहकारी समितियों के चुनाव” to be held on 12.3.2026 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Seminar consists of two technical sessions, one on Promoting Transparency (pardarshita) in Election and other on Promoting Purity (Suchita) in Elections, followed by a Plenary Session to be held from 4.00 to 5.00 PM on the same day.

The Hon’ble Minister of Home and Cooperation has kindly consented to preside over the Plenary Session. In the Plenary Session, the findings/ deliberations of the two Technical Sessions would be presented before him for seeking guidance and Way Ahead to strengthen the reform processes in conduct of elections.

The invitees in the Technical Sessions/plenary session include Experts on Cooperatives, Commissioners of State Cooperative Election Authorities, District Magistrate/ Returning Officers and Chairpersons/Chief Executives of Multi State Cooperative Societies, Officers from the State Governments and Central Government and Media.

(F.No.CEA-12011/158/2024)