

Cooperative Election Authority

Information Note March,2026

No.03/26

15.04.2026

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://crs.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 321 (Three Hundred Twenty One) Election Programmes and appointed Returning Officers to conduct election of MSCS till end of March,2026. Generally, District Magistrate / Collectors are appointed as Returning Officer.

7. 245 (Two Hundred forty five) elections of Board of Directors & Office Bearers have been successfully conducted under supervision of CEA, till the end of March,2026.

8. 76 (Seventy Six) elections of Board of Directors and of Office Bearers are ongoing as per election program issued by CEA, till the end of March,2026.

9. During the month of March,2026, elections of 8(Eight) 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	Maharaja Multistate Co-operative Credit Society Limited, Satara	23.02.2026	8	2	1
2	The Kalyan Janta Sahakari Bank Ltd, Thane	08.02.2026	12	2	1
3	Dadasaheb Phalke Cinema & Entertainment Multi State Cooperative Society Ltd., Mumbai Suburban	22.02.2026	5 (04 vacant)	2	1
4	Tumkur Merchants Credit Cooperative Limited., Tumkur, Karnataka	09.03.2026	11 (01 vacant)	2	Vacant
5	Antyoday Multistate Cooperative Credit Society Ltd., Sangli, Maharashtra	16.03.2026	4	2	1
6	The Central Govt. Staff Co-operative Thrift & Credit Society Ltd., Chennai.	15.03.2026	8	2	1
7	The Doordarshan and Maintenance Centre Employees Multi State Cooperative Thrift	22.03.2026	8	2	1

	and Credit Society Ltd., Chennai.				
8	Nethaji Agro Produce Marketing Multistate Cooperative Society Limited, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.	22.03.2026	8	2	1

G* - General W* - Women S* – SC/ST

10. During the month of March,2026, election programme (EP) of 12(Twelve) societies have been issued as per the following details: -

	Name of MSCS	DM/DC	EP issued on
1	Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), New Delhi	South East Delhi	03.03.2026
2	Reserve Bank Staff and Officers Co-operative Credit Society Limited., Mumbai	Mumbai City	06.03.2026
3	Kisan Kalyan Bhav Seed Federation Multistate Cooperative Limited, Pune, Maharashtra	Pune	09.03.2026
4	National Federation of Farmers' Procurement Processing & Retailing Cooperative of India Limited, (NACOF), New Delhi	South East Delhi.	17.03.2026
5	The Ahmedabad Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	18.03.2026
6	Fingrowth Cooperative Bank Ltd., Jaipur	Jaipur	24.03.2026
7	Farmers Consumers Society Limited, New Delhi	South West Delhi	24.03.2026
8	Central Goods and Service Tax and Allied Departments employees Cooperative Credit Society Ltd, Mumbai	Mumbai City	25.03.2026
9	Central Warehousing Corporation Employees Cooperative Society Ltd., Chennai	Chennai	25.03.2026
10	National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Limited (FISHCOPFED), New Delhi	South East Delhi	25.03.2026
11	The Kalupur Commercial Cooperative Bank Ltd, Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	27.03.2026
12	Infrastructure Research and Development Co-operative Society Limited, Ernakulam, Kerala	Ernakulam	30.03.2026

11. During the month, the Authority held its meetings on 02.03.2026, and 18.03.2026. Till March,2026, Eighty five (85) meetings have been held by the Authority.

12. The Authority has been holding meetings with Societies listed in Schedule-II. Till March,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 March,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	Shirpur Shetkari Sahakar Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Dhule	23.03.2026
2	Dhanvijay Agro & Mktg. Multi State Cooperative Society	23.03.2026

14. **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 March,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 BISCOMAUN elections, on 19th March,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 BISCOMAUN 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.”

15. 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.

16. **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/-

17. 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, March,2026
- c. Instructions for the Returning Officer for filling up Format 19M & 19N

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

18. 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*	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

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

The Cooperative Election Authority has successfully organized a Seminar on “पारदर्शिता एवं सुचिता से बहु राज्य सहकारी समितियों के चुनाव” on 12.3.2026 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Two technical sessions, one on Promoting Transparency (pardarshita) in Election and other on Promoting Purity (Shuchita) in Elections, followed by a Plenary Session from 4.00 to 5.00 PM were held during the Seminar. Hon’ble Minister of State for Cooperation chaired the Plenary Session. In the Plenary Session, the findings/ deliberations of the two Technical Sessions were presented.

Around 800 participants took part in the Seminar. 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.

Copy of the Press Release released on this occasion is attached.

20. **Progress report for the Financial Year 2025-26**

During the Financial Year from 1st April, 2025 to 31st March, 2026, Cooperative Election Authority has issued 179 election programmes. 132 elections were completed and 47 elections are on-going and are at different stages. 51 requests of societies are pending.

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

Ministry of Cooperation



National Seminar on “Transparency and Purity in Elections of Multi-State Cooperative Societies” held in New Delhi

Reforms in cooperative sector advancing the vision of “Sahkar se Samridhhi” under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home & Cooperation Minister Amit Shah

Cooperative Election Authority has conducted around 240 elections so far; strengthening democratic governance in cooperatives

Around 70 elections currently underway; Cooperative Election Authority expected to conduct about 130 more elections next year

Reservation for women and SC/ST members strengthening inclusiveness and diversity in cooperative governance

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 12 MAR 2026 8:04PM by PIB Delhi

A national seminar on “Transparency and Purity in Elections of Multi-State Cooperative Societies” was organised today at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi by the Cooperative Election Authority (CEA) under the Ministry of Cooperation. The seminar brought together a wide range of stakeholders including Chairpersons, Chief Executive Officers and members of the Boards of Directors of Multi-State Cooperative Societies, Returning Officers, District Magistrates, Chairpersons of State Cooperative Election Authorities, experts from the cooperative sector, and senior officers from the Central and State Governments.

Addressing the gathering, Minister of State for Cooperation Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar said that the programme organised by the Cooperative Election Authority is historic and will prove to be a milestone for the cooperative movement. He noted that for the first time representatives of Multi-State Cooperative Societies from across the country have gathered on a single platform to

deliberate on strengthening transparency and integrity in cooperative elections. Shri Gurjar said that under the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of “Sahkar se Samridhi” and the leadership of Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the Government of India is continuously working to strengthen the cooperative ecosystem and create an enabling environment for sustainable cooperative development so that cooperatives can play an important role in achieving the goal of a self-reliant and developed India by 2047.

The Minister of State for Cooperation highlighted that several important reforms have been introduced through the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023 to make cooperative institutions more transparent, accountable and democratic. He said that one of the most significant reforms under the amended Act was the establishment of an independent Cooperative Election Authority, formally notified on 11 March 2024, which has been entrusted with ensuring free, fair and transparent elections in Multi-State Cooperative Societies. Another key reform, he said, relates to fixing the tenure of Boards of Directors of Multi-State Cooperative Societies and removing provisions that allowed boards to continue indefinitely until elections were conducted, thereby bringing greater discipline in governance and preventing delays in the conduct of elections.

Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar said that the reforms introduced by the Government aim to strengthen democratic governance and accountability within cooperative institutions. He informed that the Cooperative Election Authority has successfully conducted around 240 elections so far, while about 70 elections are currently underway, and around 130 additional elections are expected to be conducted in the coming financial year. He also highlighted that the amended Act provides for reservation of two seats for women and one seat each for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Boards of Multi-State Cooperative Societies, ensuring greater diversity and inclusiveness in cooperative governance. He noted that six seats reserved for women and thirteen seats reserved for SC/ST categories remain vacant in elections conducted so far and the Ministry of Cooperation is taking necessary steps to fill these vacancies.

The Minister of State for Cooperation further said that the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2025 has aligned the tenure of boards of cooperative banks, including Multi-State Cooperative Banks, with the provisions of Article 243ZJ of the Constitution, thereby strengthening democratic governance in the cooperative banking sector. He also noted that the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023 has introduced provisions to enhance transparency and accountability in cooperative banks by mandating that such banks appoint auditors from a panel approved by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies. In addition, amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 provide that directors of Multi-State Cooperative Banks cannot hold office for more than ten consecutive years, thereby creating opportunities for new and younger leadership in cooperative institutions.

Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar further stated that cooperative societies are founded on cooperative principles, which provide a strong framework for the development and strengthening of the cooperative movement. These principles ensure that members contribute equitably and exercise democratic control over the capital and functioning of cooperatives, enabling them to actively participate in policy formulation and decision-making. Emphasising the need to strengthen public trust in the cooperative system, he underlined that cooperative societies must develop transparent and accountable administrative structures. He said that transparent and merit-based systems for

recruitment as well as procurement of products and services are essential so that cooperatives function as professionally managed institutions capable of contributing meaningfully to the vision of a developed India.

The Minister of State for Cooperation also highlighted that following the amendments to the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, the Government notified the appointment of a Cooperative Ombudsman through a Gazette Notification dated 5 March 2024 to safeguard the interests of members of cooperative societies. The Ombudsman examines complaints filed by members and also acts as the appellate authority for appeals against the orders of Cooperative Information Officers of societies. He informed that more than 38,000 complaints have been received so far, and a significant number of these grievances have been addressed through orders passed by the Cooperative Ombudsman.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson of the Cooperative Election Authority Shri Devendra Kumar Singh said that the Authority is now entering its third year of functioning and has gained valuable experience in conducting elections across a wide range of cooperative institutions. He emphasised that cooperative societies operate on the principle of democratic member control, and therefore the electoral process must remain transparent, participatory and credible.

The Chairperson underlined that clarity in the bye-laws of cooperative societies is essential to avoid disputes during elections. He stressed the need for clearly defining aspects such as voting rights, active membership and eligibility criteria for contesting elections, so that the electoral process remains fair and free from ambiguity. He further stated that in large multi-state cooperative societies operating across several states and districts, representation on the Board should reflect the diversity of membership and remain truly representative of members' interests.

Earlier in the day, two technical sessions were organised on the themes "Promoting Transparency through Elections" and "Strengthening Purity and Integrity in Electoral Processes." The sessions witnessed active participation and meaningful deliberations among stakeholders on various aspects of cooperative election management.

The seminar concluded with a collective resolve to further strengthen transparency, fairness and democratic participation in cooperative elections, thereby reinforcing the cooperative movement as a key pillar of India's socio-economic development and advancing the Government's vision of "Sahkar se Samridhi" and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

AKAP

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