



**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE
ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS
2024-2025**

FIFTEENTH

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Report on the Demand for the Grant No.43
for the year 2024-2025**

DEPARTMENT : CO-OPERATION

TWENTY SIXTH REPORT

Presented to the House on 21st February, 2024.

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
DISPUR :: GUWAHATI - 781006**

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(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE
ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS, 2024-25**

CHAIRMAN : Shri Bhabendra Nath Bharali

MLA & Chairman

MEMBERS :

1.	Shri Terash Gowalla,	MLA & Member
2.	Shri Utpal Borah,	MLA & Member
3.	Shri Sibum Misra,	MLA & Member
4.	Shri Rupak Sharmah,	MLA & Member
5.	Shri Kaushik Rai,	MLA & Member
6.	Shri Taranga Gogoi,	MLA & Member
7.	Shri Diganta Kalita,	MLA & Member
8.	Shri Darsing Ronghang,	MLA & Member
9.	Shri Rupsing Teron,	MLA & Member
10.	Shri Dharmeswar Konwar,	MLA & Member
11.	Shri Phanidhar Talukdar,	MLA & Member
12.	Shri Jolen Daimary,	MLA & Member
13.	Dr. Amiya Kumar Bhuyan,	MLA & Member
14.	Shri Basanta Das,	MLA & Member
15.	Shri Abul Kalam Rasheed Alam,	MLA & Member
16.	Shri Diganta Barman,	MLA & Member
17.	Shri Abdul Batin Khandakar,	MLA & Member
18.	Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Baruah,	MLA & Member
19.	Shri Abdur Rahim Ahmed,	MLA & Member
20.	Hafiz Bashir Ahmed,	MLA & Member
21.	Shri Aminul Islam (Senior),	MLA & Member
22.	Shri Abdul Aziz,	MLA & Member
23.	Shri Charan Boro,	MLA & Member
24.	Shri Manoranjan Talukdar,	MLA & Member

OFFICERS, ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Hemen Das, Principal Secretary,
2. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary,
3. Smti. Deerga Baruah, Deputy Secretary,
4. Shri Samir Das, Under Secretary,
5. Shri Dhanajit Talukdar, Special Officer,
6. Shri Madhab Chetri, Estate Officer,
7. Shri Mahen Ch. Doley, Superintendent Member's Hostel,
8. Shri Fakhar Uddin Chowdhury, Committee Officer,
9. Dr. Rosy Saikia, Language Officer,
10. Shri Baidurjya Bharali, Superintendent,
11. Shri Bhaskar Saikia, Librarian,
12. Shri Lakhi Nath Mardhi, Assistant Research Officer.

(ii)

INTRODUCTION

1. I, as Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this **TWENTY SIXTH REPORT** on Demands for **Grant No. 43** of the **CO-OPERATION Department** for the financial year, **2024-25**.
2. Demands for Grant have been examined by the Committee under Rule 260 J (1) (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly.
3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the **Co-operation Department** on **16th February, 2024**.
4. The Draft Report was considered and approved by the Committee in its meeting held on **19th February, 2024**.
5. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Officials of the **Co-operation Department** for placing before them the requisite materials and their considered views in connection with the subjects under consideration and also thanks to Finance & Transformation & Development Department for their kind co-operation.
6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the Officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached to the Committee.

Place : Dispur
Dated: 19th February, 2024

Shri Bhabendra Nath Bharali
Chairman,
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (B) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

REPORT

CHAPTER-I

Grant No. 43 (Co-operation) 2024-25

The preliminary status paper relating to Grant No. 43 has been received from The Co-operation Department where the Department has analyzed brief introductory explanations under the following headings namely-

1. (A) Establishment Expenses and (B) SOPD-G, 2. (A) Functions, (B) Objectives (C) Acts and Roles 3. A brief note on the budget of Co-operation.

PRELIMINARY STATUS PAPER, GRANT NO.43

1. (A) Establishment Expenses :-

The function of the Co-operation Department is registration of Co-operative Societies as per Assam Co-operative Societies Act, 2007. Audit, Inspection of the Societies and extending all logistic support towards all round development of the societies are the responsibility of this department.

There are **2194 Nos.** of post in the Co-operation Department under Revenue Budget which includes the posts of the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam and Finance and Accounts Officer, involving an amount of **Rs. 7998.26 lakh** was spent on salaries as of 31-12-2023.

(B) SOPD-G :

The Co-operation Department had received an allocation of Rs.5926.1 lakh under State Owned Priority Development (SOPD) for the year 2023-24, which was earmarked as follows:-

1. Revenue	-	Rs.	1538.55	lakh
2. Capital	-	Rs.	4387.55	lakh
<hr/>				
Total SOPD allocation		Rs.	5926.10	lakh

2. (A) Function

The function of the Board/Managing Committees is to manage the affairs of the respective Co-operative Societies to achieve the various objectives an enshrined in their representative Byelaws are given below:

1. Formation, Registration and supervision of Co-operative Societies (Sec-3)
2. Assistance and Counseling for all round development of the Co-operative Movement (Sec-3).
3. Election and Audit of Co-operative Societies (Sec-41 & Sec-81).
4. Promotion of Autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of Co-operative Societies. (Art. 43B).

(B) Objectives:

- a. Registration, supervision, assistance, counseling and all round development of the Co-operative movement.
- b. To provide Co-operative Education.
- c. Implementation of various developmental schemes through Co-operative Societies in different sectors of the economy i.e., agriculture, farming, fisheries, dairy, industries, processing, marketing, housing, etc.

(C) Acts and Rules:

1. The Assam Cooperative Societies Act, 2007 (Act IV of 2012)
2. The Assam Cooperative Land Mortgage Bank Act, 1960,
3. The Assam Money Lenders Act, 1934 (Assam Act-4 of 1934)

(3) **A BRIEF NOTE ON THE BUDGET OF THE CO-OPERATION**
DEPARTMENT GRANT NO. (43) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24.

The Co-operation Department has placed the SFPD Budget for the year 2023-24 amounting to a total of Rs. 23104.87 lakh comprising of an amount of Rs. 14122.42 lakh in Revenue Expenditure and Rs. 8668.45 lakh as Capital Expenditure. Among these amounts an amount of Rs. 12240.15 lakh has been proposed for payment of Salaries and Rs. 343.72 lakh other Non-Salary heads that includes other office administrative expenses such as maintenance of vehicles for the officers of the Department, rents for hired buildings, postage stamps, legal services, etc. under Revenue Expenditure.

(A) From the above amount, the following has been proposed to be spent under Revenue Expenditure :-

- 1) Dairy Co-operatives :- Rs. 12.83 lakh
Financial assistance to viable and needy dairy co-operatives for implementing their schemes.
- 2) Awards / Incentives to best performing Co-operatives :- Rs. 34.20 lakh
An amount of Rs. 34.20 lakhs has been allocated in the Budget for 2023-24 as the total award money / incentives for best performing cooperative societies to keep on motivating the cooperative societies to generate employment and return high profits thus economically empowering their member shareholders.
- 3) Software Development:- Rs. 150.00 lakh
For setting up 2nd phase of a web enabled platform by integrating all the functions of the Cooperation Department such as registration of co-operatives, employee management, training, election for BODs, Audit and Inspection etc. DPR is finalized.
- 4) Assistance to GPSS: Rs.18.00 lakh
An amount of Rs. 18 lakh has been allocated for establishment of CSC.
- 5) Assistance to Other Cooperatives: Rs. 900.00 lakh.

The amount has been allocated for all other types of Cooperatives other than Dairy Coops., G.P.S.S., Women Multi-purpose Rural Coops: (GPSS) including Kanaklata Mohila Urban Coop. Bank Ltd.

- 6) Assistance to Women Cooperatives Societies:- Rs. 13.68 lakh
The amount has been allocated for effective implementation of viable special schemes of various suitable and needy multipurpose women Cooperative Societies.

(B) The balance fund has been earmarked under Capital Expenditure as:-

- 7) Construction of office buildings of the various field offices which do not have their own buildings:- Rs. 337.50.00 lakh

The fund is required to meet the expenditure for both new and ongoing construction / civil works of various office buildings at District and Sub-divisional level for efficacious public services delivery.

- 8) Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)/ WIF RIDF-Rs. 378.90 lakh
WIF- Rs. 3189.00 lakh

The fund was to meet the expenditure for RIDF-XXI, XXIII and WIF. The projects which are included for this expenditure are mentioned below:-

- (a) Renovation and construction of new warehouses by ASWC under RIDF-XXI.
- (b) Construction of Multi Compartmental Cold storage units at Paschim Boragaon in Kamrup (M) and Hojai Districts under WIF.
- (c) Construction of new godowns of GPSS under WIF, construction of Cattle feed plant under WAMUL under RIDF XXIII.

4. New Schemes launched by Government:

Number of steps have been taken by the Government, after the formation of the Ministry Cooperation, to strengthen the PACS economically, includes the following:

1. Computerization of PACS:
2. Adoption of Model Bye-Laws:
3. World's largest Decentralized Grain Storage Program in Cooperative sector to ensure food security:
4. PACS as Common Service Centres (CSC)
5. Formation of new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by PACS.
6. PACS as PM Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra for improving access to generic medicines at rural level
7. PACS given priority for retail Petrol/Diesel outlets
8. PACS as Pradhan mantra Kisan Samriddhi Kendras (PMKSK)
9. PACS to carry out O&M of rural piped water supply schemes (PWS)
10. New National Multi-State Cooperative seed Society for certified seeds.
11. New National Multi-State Cooperative Export Society for promoting exports.
12. New National Multi-State Cooperative Export Society for organic farming.

CHAPTER-II

On the **Budget** presented to the House for the Financial Year 2024-25 on **12th February, 2024** the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly in its meeting held on **16th February, 2024** has discussed the budgetary provision made for the **Grant No.43** which was incorporated by the Co-operation Department therein.

- 1.1 The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments has examined all the preliminary documents/papers received from the concerned Departments along with Action Taken on the recommendations made by the Committee in its last **Twenty Fifth Report** presented to the House for the Financial Year, 2023-24.
- 1.2 The Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments has noticed the Estimate of the amount required for the year ending 31st March, 2025 to defray the expenses in connection with the Administration of "**Co-operation**".
- 1.3 The total allocation of fund relating to Grant No. 43 both Revenue and Capital for administration of Co-operation Department during the Financial Year 2024-25 is given under:

	Revenue	Capital	Total (Rupees in Lakhs)
Voted	16170.14	5000.84	21170.98
Charged	0.00	0.00	0.00

Under the following Heads, an estimated budget allocation has been fixed as shown below:-

HEADS OF ACCOUNTS		Rupees in lakhs
"2404"	Dairy Development	525.00
"2425"	Co-operation	15645.14
"4408"	Capital outlay on Food Storage & Warehousing	0.01
"4425"	Capital outlay on Co-operation	5000.82
"6425"	Loans for Co-operation	0.01
	Grand Total	21170.98

The amount so allocated is presented before the House for approval and the money is proposed to be spent in the Revenue and Capital Expenditure respectively.

- 1.4 The Co-operation Department is responsible for registration and Audit of Co-operative Societies and Cooperative Education. Until enhancement and enforcement of the new Assam Co-operative Societies Act, 2007, with effect from 10th March, 2012, the Cooperative sector in the state was guided by the Assam Cooperative Societies Act, 1949 (Assam Act-I of 1950).

While discussing the budget provision for the year 2024-25, the Committee found that the Budget so allocated is comparatively less than the previous Financial Year and there is no clear indication for the reduction of the Budget allocation. However the committee feels that the Department should communicate with the Finance Department, Government of Assam for necessary Budget provision in order to restrict the hindrances that may arise while performing the function of the Department.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

ON THE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS IN ITS 25TH REPORT, GRANT NO.43 FOR YEAR, 2023-24.

After having a threadbare discussion on the preliminary status paper, Action Taken Report, Performances of Budget etc. furnished by the Co-operation Department, Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments has made the following Observations and Recommendations.

1. OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION:

The Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSC) on Development (B) observed that no action has yet been taken up for sanctioning of budgetary provision incorporated in recommendation No.1 of last Twenty Fifth Report of the Committee presented to the House during the financial year, 2023-24.

(The Committee observed that the Department has not initiated to make the budgetary provision for procurement of vehicles for Co-operation Deptt. Which causes debarred in progress of Departmental work)

The Committee therefore, recommended that the Department should have to procure the vehicles partially reiterating the previous recommendation of the Committee incorporated in the earlier 24th Report of the Committee.

As per recommendation of the Hon'ble DRSC the budget for partially procurement of the departmental vehicle shall be proposed by way of supplementary Demand in due course of time.

The Committee, therefore, reiterates the said recommendation urging upon the Department that the department should take necessary initiatives to implement the same recommendation considering the sanctity of the value of a High Level Legislature Committee. As the Department apprised the Committee that the Department could not perform, their other works simultaneously so the committee recommends that the Department should move for sanction of another 16.00 Crore of rupees through SD to perform the other works smoothly.

ACTION TAKEN:

The Department has placed demand of Rs. 16.00 lakh in the budget of FY 2024-25 for procurement of two nos. of vehicles for Head Office.

SD could not be placed due to non- communication from Finance Department.

2. OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee observed that the department did not initiate to revive most of the defunct Cooperative Societies throughout the State which may cause a debarred in progress of societies.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department should come forward to make a survey throughout the state for the revival of all the defunct societies including Kalabari Marketing Society of Gohpur LAC and Rajgarh Coopertaive Society of Bihpuriya LAC etc. Adequate measures should be taken to provide sufficient staff in Pachim Bhabanipur Cooperative Society.

ACTION TAKEN:

The Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies and the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies has been directed to take necessary steps for revival of defunct Cooperative Societies in the State vide letter No. CMP. 10/2017/88, dated 15-05-2023. The Zonal Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Tezpur have submitted the detailed report on revival of Kalabari Marketing & Processing Society Ltd. which is enclosed herewith.

There is no any society in the name of Rajgarh Cooperative Society Ltd. under North Lakhimpur sub-division, but the ARCS, North Lakhimpur mentioned that only Rajgarh G.P.S.S. Ltd is registered under North Lakhimpur sub-division. The Pachim Bhabanipur S.S. Ltd had started doing the business of P.D.S. since 1976. At present the society has been functioning with 4 Nos. of staff.

3. OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee observes that as the Fair Price Shops are not established in the border areas/hilly places, people find it very difficult to purchase their essential commodities from such fair price shop.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that Department should take necessary measures establish sufficient nos. of fair price shop in the border areas/hilly places so that people do not have any scope to purchase essential commodities from the neighbour State.

ACTION TAKEN:

The establishment of Fair Price Shop in the border areas/hilly places does not come under the purview of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22. It rather comes under the purview of Food and Civil Supplies Department of Assam.

4. OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee observed that Self Help Group of our state are not involved in implementation of any schemes executed by the Co-operation Department.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that a policy should be made by the Co-operation Department for inclusion of the Self Help Group through the convergence system in implementation of scheme as per requirement.

ACTION TAKEN: NIL

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE YEAR

2024-25

GRANT NO. 43.

DEPARTMENT : CO-OPERATION

After having a threadbare discussion on the preliminary status paper, Action Taken Report and Performances of Budget received from the Co-operation Department, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSC) on Development (B) Departments has made the following Observations and Recommendations:

1. The Committee observes that the Cooperation Department has not taken proper measure for the development of Cooperative Societies in the State in spite of having a lot of scope to take advantage of the central schemes to improve lives of the people through Cooperatives.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Department should take necessary action for the improvement of the Cooperative Societies throughout the state. The Committee also recommends that Department should prepare a Roadmap to implement various State and Central schemes throughout the state so that the people would be benefited from such schemes.

2. The Committee observes that Cooperative Societies of the State could not achieve proper growth whereas they have immense scope to venture in to various economic activities by collective efforts.

The Committee recommends that the Department should take necessary steps to support the Cooperative Societies for diversification in their business activities for a visibility and sustainability considering the sanctity of public interest.

3. The Committee observes that the Department has not taken proper measures for proper grain storage and accessible market facilities in the State.

The Committee recommends that the Department should initiate necessary provisions for grain storage all over the state and explore the possibilities of marketing of the products of the marginal farmers/traders.

4. During the course of deliberations with the Departmental representatives the Committee observes that 11 thousand societies are registered under the Societies Act, but provisions have not yet been made for the revival of the defunct societies.

Consequent upon the non-revival of the defunct societies, the Committee recommends that the Department should take steps for revival of the defunct societies. The Department should also gear-up for registration of new Cooperatives so that each GP of the State has at least one Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (Dairy, Fishery etc.)

5. The Committee observes that the Department is yet to procure vehicles for the Head Office to supervise various central sector and State Schemes being implemented.

The Committee recommends that the Department should take necessary steps to ensure the procurement of vehicles for effective supervision of developmental activities.

With these observation and recommendations as mentioned aforesaid, the Committee recommends that the Budget provision amounting to Rs. 21170. 98 Lakh during the financial year 2024-25 under the Grant No. 43 be accepted.

The Action taken on the report may be submitted to the Committee within 90 (ninety) days from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.

2024

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