



# Cooperative Societies Under Ambit of RTI for First Time in Madhya Pradesh

## Why in News?

In a recent landmark order, all [cooperative societies](#) in Madhya Pradesh, involved in grain **procurement and the operation of ration shops** have been brought under the ambit of [Right to Information Act \(RTI\), 2005](#) with immediate effect.

## Key Points

- [State Information Commissioner \(SIC\)](#) has also mandated the **proactive disclosure of ration shop salesperson's salaries on the district portal** to ensure transparency and accountability.
- It is aimed at **ensuring justice for farmers and common citizens** by subjecting cooperative societies to RTI Act.

## Cooperative Societies

- **About:**
  - Cooperatives are organizations **formed at the grassroots level by people to harness the power of collective bargaining** in the marketplace.
    - This can mean **different kinds of arrangements**, such as using a common resource or sharing capital, to derive a common gain that would otherwise be difficult for an individual producer to get.
  - In agriculture, cooperative dairies, sugar mills, spinning mills etc. are **formed with the pooled resources of farmers who wish to process their produce.**
- **Jurisdiction:**
  - Cooperatives are a state subject under the Constitution, meaning **they come under the state governments' jurisdiction**, but there are many societies whose members and areas of operation are spread across more than one state.
  - Cooperatives of more than one state are **registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act (MSCS) of 2002.**
    - Their board of directors has representation from all states they operate in.
    - Administrative and financial control of these societies is with the central registrar, with the law making it clear that no state government official can wield any control over them.

## State Information Commission (SIC)

- It is constituted by the State Government.
- It has **one State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC)** and not more than 10 SICs to be **appointed by the Governor** on the recommendation of the Appointments Committee headed by the Chief Minister.

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