

Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission

PUBLIC PORTAL

I. OBJECT OF THIS PORTAL

This portal intends to enlighten and educate the co-operators as well as the general public about some aspects of the Co-operative Movement, organizing a Co-operative Society, becoming members of a society, management of societies, formation of Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission, its powers and functions, and the conduct of election of Members (Directors) and Office Bearers (President and Vice President) of the board of a society.

II. ABOUT CO-OPERATIVES – GENERAL INFORMATION

(1) Co-operative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open- Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Co-operation Among Co-operatives
7. Concerns for Community

- As adopted by the -

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

(2) Co-operatives as a Movement

Co-operative is a non-political movement for the economic and social uplift of the members of society. From the days of Rockdale Pioneers of the United Kingdom in the year 1844 to this day of '**Amma Marunthagam**' and '**Amma Pasumai Pannai Thittam**' through Co-operatives in Tamil Nadu, the Co-operative movement is growing in leaps and bounds and with no turning back.

(3) What is a Co-operative Society

Co-operative Societies of a State are body corporates registered under the Co-operative Societies Act of the respective states and some under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act.

(4) Role of Co-operatives

Co-operatives are institutions formed for the promotion of thrift, self-help and mutual aid among themselves with common economic needs so as to bring about improvement in Agriculture and Industry, better methods of production, better business and better living.

(5) Co-operatives in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu, a pioneer and model state in all spheres and schemes of things, **is also the first to organize Co-operatives in the country**. The first such Co-operative for rural credit was started in the year **1904 at Thirur in Thiruvallur District**.

At the same year a Co-operative for the Urban Consumers was also started at Chennai, **The Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society, popularly known as TUCS** and which started the Kamadhenu, the first ever Super Market of its kind in Chennai and also a pioneer to the present day Plazas and Malls of the city.

(6) Co-operatives in various sectors

In Tamil Nadu, Co-operatives are there in all walks of life and field of activities, like Agriculture Credit. Finance and Banking, Land Development, Agricultural Production, Marketing, Manure and Fertilizers, Food and Consumers Co-operatives, Super Markets, Handlooms and Textiles, Sugar Mills, Dairying, Housing, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Small, Cottage and Village Industries, Child Development, Students, Industrial Workers, Labourers, Employees, Officials, Women, SC/ST, Minorities, Tribal Welfare etc.

Apart from the **Registrar of Co-operative Societies**, who is having jurisdiction over Co-operative Societies connected with Agricultural Credit, Agricultural Marketing, Consumers, Banking, Finance, Workers, Employees, etc. **there are 14 other Heads of Departments known as Functional Registrars** who are also having jurisdiction over certain classes of Co-operative Societies as mentioned below:- (As on 28/02/2013)

SI. NO.	NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT (Sector)	PRIMARY SOCIETIES	CENTRAL SOCIETIES (Structure)	APEX SOCIETIES	TOTAL
1.	Registrar of Co-operative Societies	7303	113	6	7422
2.	<u>Other Functional Registrars</u> Commissioner for Milk Production and Dairy Development	9834	17	1	9852
3.	Director of Fisheries	1389	12	1	1402
4.	Director of Handlooms and Textiles	1345	20	3	1368
5.	Registrar of Co-operative Societies (Housing)	860	-	1	861
6.	Chief Executive Officer, Palm Products and Development Board	731	8	1	740
7.	Director of Industries and Commerce	312	11	3	326
8.	Chief Executive Officer, Khadi and Village Industries	158	1	-	159
9.	Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services	107	-	-	107
10.	Director of Agriculture	93	10	-	103
11.	Director of Social Welfare	97	1	-	98
12.	Director of Rural Development and Panchayatraj.	45	-	-	45
13.	Director of Sericulture	25	-	1	26
14.	Commissioner, Integrated Child Development Services.	26	-	-	26
15.	Director of Sugar	16	-	1	17
	Total	22341	193	18	22552

(7) Governance of Co-operatives

The Co-operatives Societies in Tamil Nadu are governed by the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983 and the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Rules, 1988 and other laws as applicable in relevance to the business activities of the societies.

III. Registration, Membership and Management

(1) Registration of a Co-operative Society (Sec 6)

For registering a Co-operative Society, the proposed society should consist of at least twenty five independent persons qualified to be admitted as members, who are residing or owning immovable property in the area of operation of the society.

(2) Societies which may be registered (Sec 4)

A society which has its object, the promotion of the economic interest or general welfare of its members in accordance with the Co-operative Principles may be registered.

(3) Application for registration (Sec 8)

An application for registration of a society shall be made to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies concerned, under whose functional and territorial jurisdiction the society is proposed.

(4) Class and Categories of Societies (Sec 16 and Rule 14)

The societies are classified and categorised with reference to their objects, area of operation, membership and any other matter as specified in the rules.

(5) Who can be a member (Sec 21)

Any individual competent to contract under section 11 of the Indian Contract Act, such further qualification as may be specified in the rules or bye-laws.

(6) Admission of Associate Member (Sec 22)

The societies as provided in the Act, Rules and bye-laws may admit persons with the prescribed qualification as associated members.

They are not entitled to participate in the general meeting of the society or in the elections to the board of the society.

(7) Management of a Co-operative Society (Sec 33)

The management of a Co-operative society is vested in a board (committee) constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Act, Rules and Bye-laws of the society.

The Board consists of (1) Elected Members (2) Co-opted Members and (3) Functional Directors.

The number of elected members of a board of a society varies according to the type of the society viz Primary, Central and Apex. The minimum is 7 and the maximum is 21.

Of the members to be elected there shall be 30% reservation for women and 18% reservation for SC and ST. The term of the board is 5 years from the date of election.

IV. THE CONSTITUTION OF CO-OPERATIVE ELECTION COMMISSION

(1) Article 243ZK of the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 which states:

The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to a co-operative society shall vest in such an authority or body, as may be provided by the Legislature of a State, by law:

As mandated by the constitution the **Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission** was constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu u/s 33-A of the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983.

(2) **What Section 33- A (1) States:**

“The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to a co-operative society shall vest in the Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission consisting of a Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Election Commissioner”.

(3) The powers and functions of the Election Commission are detailed under Rule 52-A.

Co-ordination of District Collector

The Election Commission gives such directions as may be necessary to the District Collector or District Superintendent of Police or any Executive Magistrate or any Police Officer for the conduct of Co-operative Election. **(52-A(1) (a)).**

Co-ordination of Various Heads of Departments

The Election Commission **appoints as State Election Officers the Heads of 15 Government Departments**, in respect of the Co-operative Societies coming under their respective administrative control.

The State Election Officers, subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission, co-ordinate and supervise the conduct of election to Co-operatives under their respective administrative control (52-A-3)

At present the following officers are functioning as the State Election Officers as appointed by the Election Commission for the societies under the Department noted against:

Name of the State Election Officer

1. Tmt.Jayashree Muralidharan, I.A.S.,
2. Dr. K.Manivasan, I.A.S.,
3. Thiru. V.M.Velliangiri, M.Sc,M.A.,M.B.A.,HDC
4. Thiru. V.M.Xavier Chrisso Nayagam, I.A.S.,
5. Thiru. Sunil Paliwal, I.A.S.,
6. Thiru. T.Abraham, I.A.S.,
7. Thiru. R.Sudalaikannan, I.A.S.,
8. Thiru. R.Sudalaikannan, I.A.S.,
9. Thiru. Magesan Kasirajan, I.A.S.,
10. Tmt. G.Latha, I.A.S.,
11. Dr. M.Rajendran, I.A.S.,
12. Thiru. K.Baskaran I.A.S.,
13. Tmt. Beela Rajesh I.A.S.,
14. Thiru. Jagmohan Singh Raju, I.A.S.,
15. Thiru. P.Senthilkumar I.A.S

Societies coming under the control of

- Registrar of Cooperative Societies
- Director of Integrated Child Development Services
- Registrar of Cooperative Societies (Housing)
- Commissioner of Social Welfare
- Commissioner for Milk Production and Dairy Development
- Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services
- Tamil Nadu Khadhi and Village Industries Board
- Palm Development Board
- Director of Sugar
- Director of Handlooms and Textiles
- Director of Agriculture
- Director of Rural Development and Panjayat Raj
- Director of Fisheries
- Director of Industries and Commerce
- The Director of Sericulture

Co-ordination of District Level Administrative Heads

The Election Commission appoints as many officers of the Government not below the rank of Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the Co-operative Department or not below such rank in other departments of the Government **as the District Election Officer for each district or part of a district.**

These District Election Officers, subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission, co-ordinate and supervise the conduct of election to Co-operatives under their respective administrative control (52-A-(4))

Now there are 424, District Election Officers:

Sl.No.	Name of the Departments	No. of District Election Officers
1	Registrar of Cooperative Societies	71
2	Commissioner for Milk Production and Dairy Development	32
3	Director of Fisheries	31
4	Director of Handlooms and Textiles	32
5	Registrar of Cooperative Societies (Housing)	32
6	Chief Executive Officer, Palm Products and Development Board	32
7	Director of Industries and Commerce	32
8	Chief Executive Officer, Khadi and Village Industries	32

9	Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services	14
10	Director of Agriculture	30
11	Director of Social Welfare	32
12	Director of Rural Development and Panchayatraj	13
13	Director of Sericulture	10
14	Commissioner, Integrated Child Development Services	10
15	Director of Sugar	12
	Total	424

(4) CONDUCT OF ELECTION

a) Election of members of the board of members of the board is conducted as provided under Rule 52

b) The Election of Office Bearers of the Board (President and Vice President) is conducted as per Rule 53 of the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Rules, 1988.

c) **Who can vote**

Every member has only one vote.

But only those members who, on the date thirty days prior to the date of poll and who were qualified in accordance with the provisions of the Act, Rules, and bye-laws and are in the voters list as published by the Electoral officer (Rule 52 (7)) can vote.

d) **Who can become a member of the Board**

Any member of a society whose name is in the voters list and who is not otherwise disqualified for being elected as a member of the board can be nominated as a candidate for election under the Act and the Rules.

e) **Hand Books on the conduct of Co-operative Elections**

(For complete details in respect of the conduct of election of members and office bearers of the boards of societies the various hand books brought out by the Commission and hosted in the Commission's website may be gone through)

(V) Co-operative Elections 2013 – HIGHLIGHTS

(1) **For the first time** in Tamil Nadu, Election to all Co-operatives under the jurisdiction of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and all other Functional Registrars were conducted **simultaneously** by the newly formed Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission, an independent body, **constituted as per the Constitution (Ninety Seventh Amendment) Act, 2011.**

- (2) A mammoth exercise of conducting elections to a large number of 21,027 Co-operatives which is exacting **and a first in the history** of Co-operative Elections in Tamil Nadu and also **an unparalleled event throughout the country.**
- (3) **Elections were conducted** not for hundreds or thousands of vacancies but for **a record number** of about **2.5 lakh** vacancies.
- (4) Election for **2 lakh vacancies** for the Primaries were conducted simultaneously in **a record time**, within a short span of 64 days from 04.03.2013 to 06.05.2013 – **a historic achievement in the annals of any election.**
- (5) Introduction of **Ballot Boxes, Paper Seals** as used in General and Local Body Elections and **Ballot Papers** uniformly designed, which **is also a first** in the history of Co-operative Elections in the state.
- (6) Compared to the number of 2.5 lakh vacancies for which elections were conducted, Writ Petitions were filed questioning the process of election in only 493 cases **which is negligible.**
- (7) Barring a very few, almost all the Writ Petitions were either dismissed or disposed of taking the **stand of the Commission as correct.**
- (8) Larger successes of women in the election, numbering about 57, 250 elected as Directors on the Board of these societies.
- (9) Publication of Comprehensive Hand Books and Election Manuals for **the first time** for the guidance of the Election Officials.
- (10) Publication of posters for **the first time** for the education of crores of members for their participation in the Co-operative Elections.
- (11) When the previous Elections to Co-operatives in the year 2007 were marred by large scale riot and violence resulting in the cancellation of all the Election to Co-operatives held in the state, the **Free, Fair, Peaceful and Orderly conduct of Elections to 2 lakh vacancies in the Primaries alone in a short period of 64 days** by the newly formed Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission is in itself **a historic achievement.**
- (12) **Co-operative Election a Continuous Process**

Unlike Election to Parliament and Legislative in which vacancies are on the basis of territories, which are more static, the Co-operatives are formed every now and then according to the needs, class and categories of the members, necessitating continuous election and therefore Co-operative Election is a non-stop process. Subsequent to the election of 2.5 lakh regular vacancies already conducted upto August 2013 elections for 50,986 new vacancies which arose in 10,572 societies **have since been successfully conducted till August 2015.**