

# NCDC to launch Ayushman Sahakar Scheme

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Launching NCDC's Ayushman Sahakar on Monday, Union Agriculture Minister Purushottam Rupala said NCDC would extend term loans to prospective cooperative societies to help them play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.

As per the scheme formulated by NCDC, the amount of Rs 10, 000 crore will be given to cooperative bodies, the minister announced.

## **Key Highlights**

- NCDC's scheme will be a step towards strengthening farmers welfare activities by the Central Government. Rupala said the AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme would revolutionize the way healthcare delivery takes place in rural areas. He also gave a call to the existing cooperatives to take up healthcare services as an activity for farmers.
- NCDC's scheme aligns itself with the focus of the National Health Policy, 2017, covering the health systems in all their dimensions- investments in health, organization of healthcare services, access to technologies, development of human resources, encouragement of medical pluralism, affordable health care to farmers etc.
- In line with the National Digital Health Mission launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15th August, 2020, NCDC's Ayushman Sahakar would bring transformation in rural

areas. By virtue of their strong presence in rural areas, cooperatives utilizing the scheme would bring revolution in comprehensive health care services.

- Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund. NCDC assistance will flow either through the State Governments/ UT Administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives. Subsidy/ grant from other sources can be dovetailed.
- Ayushman Sahakar specifically covers establishment, modernization, expansion, repairs, renovation of hospitals and healthcare and education infrastructure. The scheme also provides working capital and margin money to meet operational requirements. The scheme provides interest subvention of one percent to women majority cooperatives.
- NCDC was set up under an Act of Parliament in 1963 for promotion and development of cooperatives. Since 1963, it has extended around Rs.1.60 lakh crore as loans to cooperatives.

**SOURCE:** *The New Indian Express*