

Shah launches onboarding of 300 cooperatives on portal

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Home and cooperation minister Amit Shah on Tuesday virtually launched the onboarding of cooperatives on the government e-marketplace (GeM) portal — a federally-run digital public procurement system — and announced that around 300 cooperatives, including Amul, Nafed and Iffco, have already come over to the platform that will allow them to procure goods and services through GeM.

“If a system does not change itself with the times, then it becomes outdated, and therefore it is necessary to improve the cooperative system for the expansion of the sector,” said Shah while e-launching the system. Minister of commerce and industry Piyush Goyal was also present at the launch.

Addressing the gathering of representatives of cooperatives, Shah said most units of the government buy through GeM, so cooperatives should also start preparing for registration as ‘sellers’ for supply on GeM to increase their market. The minister also appealed to the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) to expand marketing of cooperatives, noting that there can be no better way than the GeM for this. In the first phase, cooperative societies/banks with turnover/deposits of more than Rs 100 crore have been taken up for onboarding. As many as 589 eligible cooperatives have been identified in this category. Earlier, cooperatives were not allowed to register as ‘buyers’ on the GeM platform.

The GeM had been set up as the national procurement portal six years ago to provide an end-to-end online marketplace for central and state government departments, PSUs, etc for common-use goods and services in a transparent and efficient manner.