



## TAMIL NADU STATE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ELECTION COMMISSION



### Constitution of the TamilNadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission

The Government of TamilNadu as mandated under article 243-ZK of the Constitution through amendment u/s 33-A of the TamilNadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983, immediately constituted the **TamilNadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission**, an independent body to conduct free and fair elections to all the Co-operatives in the State and appointed Thiru.M.R.Mohan, I.A.S. (Retd) as its First Commissioner. The Government of TamilNadu, under Rule 52-A of the TamilNadu Co-operatives Societies Rules, 1988 defined the function and powers of the Commission that started functioning on 08.02.2013. Till then the various Government departments themselves conducted the election to Co-operatives coming under their jurisdiction.

### Co-operative Principles :

- Voluntary and Open-Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Co-operation Among Co-operatives
- Concern for Community

-As adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance

### **Co-operatives as a Movement**

Co-operative Movement is a Vibrant and Non-Stop Movement. It is not a Political ideology. 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 TamilNadu, the co-operative movement is growing in leaps and bounds.

### **Co-operatives in TamilNadu**

TamilNadu 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 Society was started in the year 1904 at Thirur Village in Thiruvallur District.

In TamilNadu, Co-operatives play a vital role in all walks of life especially in supply of credit and inputs to the farmers, Production and Marketing of Agricultural products and also in other areas like Banking, Land Development, Food and Consumer activities, Handlooms and Textiles, Sugar Mills, Dairying, Housing, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Small, Cottage and Village Industries, Child Development, Tribal Welfare etc. benefitting all sectors of the community like Students, Industrial Workers, Labourers, Employees, Officials and also the women, SC/ST and minorities.

The Co-operative Societies in TamilNadu are regulated under the TamilNadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983 and the TamilNadu Co-operative Societies Rules, 1988.

### **The 5 Phase of Election**

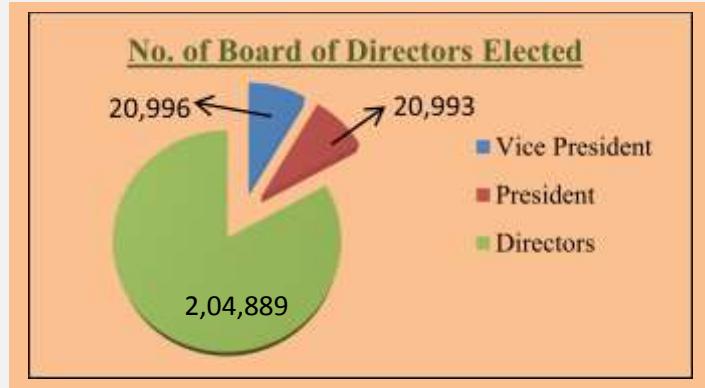
Taking into account the 3 tier structure, namely Primary, Central and Apex, the election Programme was drawn in such a way that the elections for 22,552 societies were conducted in 5 phases with the first face having 22,212 Primaries staggered into 4 stages.

### Election Programme - 5 Phases

<b>Phase I</b> (in 4 Stages)	-	04.03.2013 to 06.05.2013
<b>Societies</b>	<b>22,212</b>	
<b>Phase II</b>	-	09.05.2013 to 10.06.2013
<b>Societies</b>	<b>198</b>	
<b>Phase III</b>	-	13.06.2013 to 15.07.2013
<b>Societies</b>	<b>83</b>	
<b>Phase IV</b>	-	18.07.2013 to 23.08.2013
<b>Societies</b>	<b>58</b>	
<b>Phase V</b>	-	31.08.2013 to 04.10.2013
<b>Society</b>	<b>1</b>	

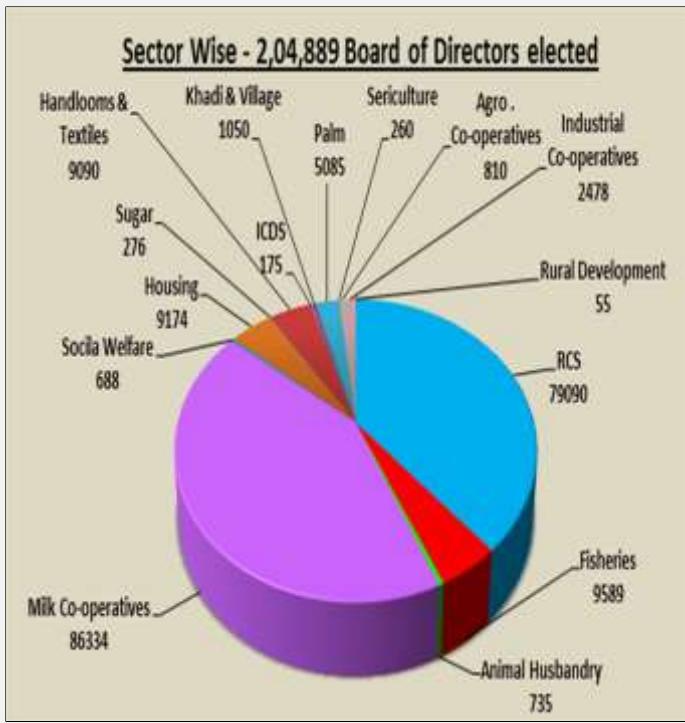
### Co-operative Elections -2013

Of these 22,552 Co-operatives in the State at the time of commencement of Co-operative Election – 2013 elections were conducted for 21,027 societies for a total 2,46,878 Vacancies comprising 2,04,889 Directors, 20,993 Presidents and 20,996 Vice-Presidents.



### Election of Directors, Presidents and Vice-Presidents

SI. No.	Name of the State Election Officer	Total No. of Societies	Number of Societies in which Elections were held	Number of Board of Directors elected	Number of Presidents elected	Number of Vice-Presidents elected
1	Registrar of Co-operative Societies	7422	7356	79090	7351	7350
2	<b>Other Functional Registrars</b> Commissioner for Milk Production and Dairy Development	9852	8495	86334	8485	8485
3	Director of Fisheries	1402	1392	9589	1392	1392
4	Director of Handlooms and Textiles	1368	1345	9090	1345	1345
5	Registrar of Co-operative Societies (Housing)	861	848	9174	847	847
6	Chief Executive Officer, Palm Products and Development Board	740	740	5085	740	740
7	Director of Industries and Commerce	326	314	2478	296	300
8	Chief Executive Officer, Khadi and Village Industries	159	157	1050	157	157
9	Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services	107	105	735	105	105
10	Director of Agriculture	103	102	810	102	102
11	Director of Social Welfare	98	98	688	98	98
12	Director of Rural Development and Panchayatraj.	45	8	55	8	8
13	Director of Sericulture	26	26	260	26	26
14	Commissioner, Integrated Child Development Services.	26	25	175	25	25
15	Director of Sugar	17	16	276	16	16
	Total	22552	21027	204889	20993	20996



## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

*The prosperity of a nation lies in the prospects of its women. Empowerment of women is the first and foremost aspect for their better prospects.*

When the Constitution (Ninety Seventh Amendment) Act of 2011 provided for two seats for women in the Board of any Co-operative Society, the **Government of Tamil Nadu** made suitable amendments in the Act and the Rules providing 30% space for women in the Board of any Co-operative Society in the State. As a result, now in a Board of 21 elected members of a Co-operative Society there are minimum 6 women. Certainly therefore it is nothing but **an act of empowerment of women** in all its meaning and message.

Thus out of the total 2,04,889 members elected to the Boards of Co-operative Societies in the State as Directors, a sizeable number of 57,250 are women and that too majority of them with rural background. Out of these, 2,576 are Presidents and 3,357 are Vice-Presidents.

## WEB-SITE AND E-MAIL ID

A website ‘[www.coopelection.tn.gov.in](http://www.coopelection.tn.gov.in)’ of the Commission is unique that contains **Dynamic Data-based reporting system** for the officials besides information to the public and members of the Co-operative Societies. An E-mail Id of the Commission [tcoopelectcomn@gmail.com](mailto:tcoopelectcomn@gmail.com) helps for better, quick and easy online correspondence.

## Training

The Commission provided necessary training to the officers of all Departments from top to bottom in the conduct of Election to Co-operatives.

## HAND BOOKS

The Commission brought out Six Hand Books for the use of officials to conduct the elections in a free, fair and proper manner and one more for the guidance of the Contesting Candidates

## REPRESENTATION OF SC/ST

In the matter of SC/ST, the **Government of Tamil Nadu**, as against the constitutional requirement of minimum one member, has made suitable amendments to the Act and the Rules and provided for 18% in the Boards of Co-operative Societies. This paved the way for a minimum of four members belonging to SC/ST in the board of a society with 21 members.

As a whole and in the present scenario, in the Board of every Co-operative Society having twenty one elected members, there are a minimum of six women and four belonging to SC/ST, thus totalling ten. Thus almost half of the members of the board are from weaker and underprivileged sections of the Society. In effect their say cannot be ignored or viewed lightly in the administration of any one Co-operative Society in the state.

Representatives Elected	Number
<b>Women</b>	
Directors	<b>57,250</b>
Presidents	<b>2,576</b>
Vice Presidents	<b>3,357</b>
<b>SC/ST</b>	
Directors	<b>29,237</b>
Presidents	<b>1,223</b>
Vice Presidents	<b>1,639</b>

## 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 was 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 lakhs vacancies.
- (4) Election for 2 lakhs 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 lakhs 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 educating the crores of members for their active 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 lakhs 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.



Thiru.M.R.Mohan, I.A.S.(Retd)  
Commissioner

### CO-OPERATIVE ELECTION – A NON-STOP PROCESS

Unlike Elections to Parliament and Legislatures 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 category of the members, necessitating continuous election and therefore Co-operative Election is a non-stop process. Subsequent to the election for 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.

### VISITS BY OTHER STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

The successful completion of election to some 2.5lakh vacancies in 21,027 co-operative societies at a short span of time in a free and fair manner drew the attention and admiration of all other State Co-operative Election Commissions in the country. Some of the State Co-operative Election Commissioners like Karnataka, Odisha and officials from UttraPradesh Election Commission visited the Commission for on the spot study and sharing of knowledge. **Thiru. Gangadeen Yadav, I.A.S.(Retd.), the Chief Co-operative Election Commissioner from UP has stated that the ‘TamilNadu State Co-operative Societies Election Commission is a role model and an agent of change for the co-operative domain in the state and has taken the lead in various aspects with rich experience and knowledge in this field.’**



Members of a Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Society in a village showing keen interest in Co-operative Elections



A member casting her vote in the Co-operative Election

