CHAPTER III

ROLE OF NCUI IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES IN INDIA
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NCUI

The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) which has now to its credit about six decades of service to the cooperative movement and represents more than 200 million cooperators in the country is considered as the world’s largest movement (Akhtar, et.al., 1993:44). The union has a good number of organizations as its members from various sectors of the economy. The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) obtained its present form after passing through a number of phases during last 60 years. However, during recent years the activities of NCUI have increased in many directions. The important role played by the NCUI in disseminating the message of cooperative movement is quite evident. It also symbolizes that the dreams of the early pioneers of cooperative movement in India like Sir Lallubhai Samaldas and Sir. V Ramdas Pantula have come true.

The cooperative movement was formally introduced in India in 1904. In early years the primary societies were established in large numbers and soon the need was felt for federal organizations at the district and the state levels to serve them. By the end of 1920 most of the provinces in British India had provincial cooperative banks as the progress in the sphere of cooperative credit was rapid (Sharma, 1997:308). On these lines the cooperatives also established provincial cooperative institutions in different provinces gradually. The principal function of the provincial institutes were imparting cooperative education, building the image of cooperatives, furnishing a focus on non-official opinion affecting the movement and serving as a liaison body between the cooperative department and honorary workers upon whose ability the success of cooperation depends. These provincial level conferences felt the need to forge an All India cooperative organization. Crystallization of this idea occurred at the first meeting of the apex cooperative banks which was convened at the instance of Bihar and Orissa Provincial Cooperative Banks. At this conference a decision was taken to establish an Association of Indian Provincial Cooperative Banks with a standing committee composed of the representatives of each of the member banks. This led to the formation of Indian Provincial Cooperative Banks Association (Vishwanathan 1999:345)
It was in the year 1926 that need was felt to have a national level organization representing the entire cooperative movement which was further considered and crystallized in 1928. A standing committee, with Shri V. Ramdas Pantula as chairman, was appointed to draft a scheme for constitution of the Association. The constitution of the Association was adopted in 1929 (Naineta 1998:420) In this way, the All India Provincial Cooperative Institutes Association came into existence on 1st October 1929. The scope of the Association was wider than the Indian Provincial Cooperative Banks Association. For the first time an all India perspective appeared on the horizon with the formation of this Association.

The cooperators were still not happy as there were three separate cooperative conferences which deteracted from the capacity to evolve a joint cooperative policy. These three conferences were:

i) Indian Provincial Bank's Conference convened by Bank's Association
ii) All India Cooperative Conference convened by Institutes Association, and
iii) The Cooperative Registrar's Conference.

At the second All India cooperative Conference held at Hyderabad in April 1931, the need was felt to have only one Association or conference of all the three branches. Accordingly, the conference adopted a resolution to have a single All India Cooperative Conference to which the provincial and princely State Governments were to be invited to depute their registrars of cooperative societies.

The first joint conference was held at Amravati in June 1934 under the presidency of Sir Lallubahi Samaldas. In 1946 it was felt that the better step would be to have an All India cooperative Congress meeting once in a year where registrars of the provinces and states and representatives of provincial cooperative organizations would attend as members. The conference resolved that there should be one conference instead of two -- one of officials and the other of non officials. In this manner another link was forged towards the path of centralization. It was felt that it is a waste of time, money and efforts to have two conferences; where more or less the same set of people meet together to consider the problems and policies of the same movement. Accordingly, the Government of India appointed a sub committee on cooperation under the chairmanship
of Shri R.G. Saraiya. The sub-committee recommended to the Government for the amalgamation of the two conferences. The committee favoured the idea of a single cooperative body at the national level representing the entire cooperative movement and also recommended that this single association should be given liberal grants by the Central Government.

Accordingly, the two Associations decided to have a single cooperative association and prepared a constitution for this in accordance with the resolution of the All India cooperative conference held at Chenni in May 1947. The 8th All India Cooperative Congress held at Banglore in May 1949 adopted the constitution of the union and merged their identity into Indian cooperative Union. The union started functioning from Madras and Baroda. While the publication activities were under taken at Madras, the administration was handled at Baroda.

Meanwhile, the cooperative movement was getting diversified and had spread its tentacles in all directions. The state level federations of marketing societies and industrial societies were emerging and they could get direct membership in All India cooperative Union rather than getting themselves represented through the provincial institutes. This arrangement enabled All India cooperative Union to remain fully aware of the problems of every sector of the movement because of the direct membership of the apex cooperative institutions in each state of different types of societies. It was being felt that the office of the union should be located at a central place. Accordingly in 1953 it was decided to locate the Headquarter of the union at New Delhi so as to develop effective liaison with the Government of India, Planning commission, the community projects administration, international bodies connected with the development of the cooperative movement and other national as well as international organizations to promote the cooperative activities effectively. As a result the Madras and Baroda offices of the union were shifted to New Delhi in 1954 and 1955. This move is considered as the second phase of the union.

In its third phase the union assumed a legal form by getting itself registered under the Bombay Cooperative Societies Act as extended to Delhi. The name of the Indian cooperative Union at this stage was changed to All India Cooperative Union. The
reason for the change was that a primary society with the same name (Indian cooperative Union) was already functioning at New Delhi as a registered body.

After working for nearly a decade it was felt again to revise the constitution of the union to envisage its federal character and provide for streamlined administration in the by-laws of the union. While revising the constitution, the name of All India Cooperative Union was changed and renamed as National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) in 1961. Accordingly, the office of NCUI started functioning under the name of National Cooperative Union of India. For details regarding By-Laws of NCUI (See Appendix I).

PRESENT POSITION

The Cooperative Movement in the country has progressed by leaps and bounds under the apex organization of NCUI, an umbrella organization and the official spokesperson of the cooperative movement. Today India is enjoying the status of having the world’s largest cooperative movement. The number of societies has increased tremendously since the inception of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI). The membership of NCUI has touched 20 crores of various kinds of cooperative societies with a working capital to the mark of Rs 157477 crores (Viswanathan, 1998:345). It has built up a large infrastructure for effective implementation of various kinds of schemes and programmes for the acceleration of socio-economic set up of a lower level community of the nation. It has a network of cooperative structure from the village level to the national level and has almost covered 100% villages and more than 64% of households in the country. (NCUI, 1997:49)

The state unions and their activities are monitored and checked by this apex organization. The NCUI is trying to enter into every walk of life pertaining to the economic development. It has been persuading Government of India, State Governments and cooperative institutions to undertake the following activities to preserve and strengthen the cooperative identity.

a) Incorporate the identity statement and principles of cooperation in the cooperative legislation and bye-laws of cooperative institutions in order
to ensure that the same is reflected in the business policies of all cooperatives.

b) Arrange for circulation of cooperative identity statement translated in local languages among the members of cooperatives and policy makers.

c) Arrange to present the views of successful cooperators in newspapers, television and radio so that favourable opinions can be mobilized to preserve cooperative identity.

Since 1991, the Government has introduced a policy of economic reforms through liberalization, privatization and globalization. In view of this change, the cooperative movement has been making attempts to address itself to meet the challenges of these new economic policies. NCUI, being the apex body of Indian Cooperative Movement, has also brought to the notice of the Government various issues which are likely to set in motion in cooperatives on account of implementation of new economic policies.

The 8th five year plan which came into effect from 1992-93 did not give the deserving weightage to the cooperative sector. NCUI conveyed the concern of the entire cooperative movement to the Government regarding this lapse and has been pleading for corrective action. Accordingly, NUCI drafted a report under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alag on the role of cooperatives in its various schemes in the context of 9th five year plan perspective. The NUCI has been consistently following with the Government of India and State Governments to reform cooperative laws in order to insert a new soul in the cooperative movement.

MEMBERSHIP

At the beginning of the year 1998 there were 203 member institutions of National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI). During the year 1998 the following institutions were enrolled as members of NCUI.

1. State Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, Patna, (Bihar)
2. Punjab State Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Federation Limited, Jallandhar (Punjab)

3. Kerela Urban Cooperative Banks Federation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerela)

4. Haryana State Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Federation Limited, Amballa Cantt, (Haryana)

5. SBI staff Association Cooperative Bank Limited, Calcutta (West Bengal)

6. SPY cooperative Credit and supply limited ICHAL-Karanji (Maharashtra)


9. Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Gruh Nirman Sanasta Federation Limited Akola (Maharashtra)

During the year, membership of Orissa State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation Limited, Bhabneshwar was restored while the membership of Andhra Pradesh Central Cooperative Agriculture Development Bank Limited was discontinued with due to its abolition and merger with Vasant Data State Cooperative Agriculture produce, Fruits and Vegetable Fruits processing Federation, Mumbai.

At the close of the year, there were 212 cooperative institutions of various levels as members of NCUI. The category wise break up of member institutions of NCUI is given in Table 3.1.
TABLE 3.1  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Institution</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. National Level Cooperative Federations</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Membership under bye-laws No 4 (III) (NDDB)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. State Cooperative Unions</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Cooperative Unions of Union Territories</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. State Cooperative Marketing Societies</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>6. State Cooperative Banks</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. State Cooperative Land Development Banks (Agriculture and Rural Development Banks)</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. State Cooperative Consumer Federations</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. State Cooperative Housing Finance Societies</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. State Urban Cooperative Banks/Credit Associations</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Other State Cooperative Federations</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Dairy/Milk Marketing Federations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hand loom/industrial Federations</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sugar/cane Federations</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>- Spinning Mills Federations</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Fisheries Federations</td>
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<td>- Oil seeds growers Federations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Miscellaneous</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. State Tribal Development Coop.Corporations</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Multi State Cooperative Societies</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total**  212

*Source:* Complied from NCUI Records, New Delhi.
ADMINISTRATION

The supreme authority of NCUI vests with its General body which meets once a year to decide policy and programmes for cooperative development. However, the president is the head of the organization. He is supported by the chief executive who operates through various functional divisions of the NCUI secretariat. There are as many as 13 divisions in the NCUI all of which are headed by its respective directors. These include publication, Cooperative Education Programme, Coordination Personnel, Cooperative Data Bank, Publicity and Public Relations, Women Education, Literacy cum Documentation, Industrial Cooperative, Finance and NCCE Divisions. Besides these 13 main divisions, there are various other sectors of cooperative movement like land development, women cooperatives, sugar, dairy, fisheries, housing, consumer and credit society cooperatives which are also controlled, directed and headed by their respective directors functioning under the umbrella of the apex organization of NCUI.

PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

In early years the union had only skeleton staff. With the increase in its activities and functions, the number of staff has increased manifold. However, the service conditions that it offered were not attractive. With better resources and better personnel policies adopted by the management, now the union is offering better services, better service condition, good working hours, pay and perks at par with the Central Government Departments to its employees and has been able to attract and retain more qualified persons by way of providing gratuity, increased house rent allowances, earned leave, salary, pension and other incentives to its employees. The service conditions have constantly improved and these will continue to improve further with a view to attract the talented people and to provide better incentives to its employees to render devoted services. As a measure of personnel development, the union deputed its staff in various management course in the country and abroad. The employees are sent for training in their respective fields for the intensification of cooperative movement in the country and all the expenses are borne by the union.
MEMBER EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Besides the cooperative education projects, the NCUI is implementing Member Education Programmes for cooperatives of industrial sector with the financial support from the concerned ministries in the Government of India. These programmes are carried out in 19 states of the country. These programmes are a part of five year plans and the sanction is received from concerned departments on year to year basis. The following three programmes continued to be operated in the country for the upliftment of industrial, handicrafts and handloom sectors in the country through their respective projects run by NCUI.

1. Member Education Programme (MEP) Scheme for Industrial Cooperatives.

2. Education cum Development Programmes Scheme for handicraft cooperatives, and

3. Member Education Programme (MEP) Scheme for handloom cooperatives.

These programmes are concerned with educating the members in particular and the weaker sections of the society in general about the techniques and methods of crafts. These projects are mainly concerned with the activities of industry, handlooms and handicrafts in the cooperative sector. The activities are carried out by the project personnel in their respective adopted blocks under the over all guidance and supervision of NCUI.

The states of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Utter Pradesh, Delhi, Gujrat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orrisa have one project each for industrial cooperatives, while as the number of projects under the scheme of Education-cum-Development Programme of handicrafts are one each in Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Manipur, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Nagaland, 2 in Utter Pradesh and 2 in Orrisa. Similarly, the projects under the scheme of Member Education Programme for handloom cooperatives are 3 in Assam, 2 in Bihar, 4 in Utter Pradesh, 2
in Karnataka and the states of West Bengal, Manipur, Rajasthan and Nagaland have one project each. The total number of projects under each scheme are 14 for industrial cooperative, 15 for handloom cooperative and 12 for handicraft cooperative.

On the whole, the states of Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are having two projects in industrial sector and handicrafts each, but do not have any handloom project, while the State of Assam is having 4 projects but does not figure in handicrafts project. The State of Bihar has two projects of both handlooms and none in industrial sector and handicrafts. The states having a single project under industrial cooperatives are Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Gujrat, Kerela, Maharashtra and Punjab. The state of West Bengal is having three projects of each type. The State of Manipur is having two projects of handloom and handicrafts located at the same place i.e Imphal. While the state of Rajasthan has a single handloom project at Jaipur and the state of Himachal Pradesh is having a handicrafts project at Dharamshala. Tamil Nadu has two projects in Industrial sector and handicrafts located at the same place Chenni. Orrisa possess 3 projects at Bhubaneshwar and the State of Nagaland has two projects of handloom and handicrafts both at Dimapur. However, the state of Utter Pradesh has 7 projects-one of industrial type, 4 of handloom and 2 of handicrafts located at 5 towns followed by Karnataka having 4 projects – One industrial, one handicrafts and two handlooms. Thus in all 41 projects under the scheme of industrial, handloom and handicraft cooperatives are run by National Cooperative union of India.

ROLE OF NCUI IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES

National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) is representing the entire cooperative movement and has played a significant role in every field through its various kinds of cooperative organizations functioning all over the country. The Principal objective of the union is “to promote and develop the cooperative movement in India, to educate, guide and assist the people in their efforts to build up and expand the cooperative sector and to serve as an exponent of cooperative opinion is accordance with basic cooperative principles”. The union has the character of a national confederation of cooperatives of India and its membership is open to all national and state level cooperative organizations as well as multistate cooperatives.
The National Cooperative Union of India is deeply concerned with the upliftment of weaker sections of the community in general and to its members in particular throughout the country by imparting cooperative and economic knowledge. The union is presently intensifying the cooperative knowledge to its members through a net work of 27 cooperative education field projects located in 15 cooperatively under developed states in the country.

Cooperative education constitutes the bed rock for the success of cooperative movement. Cooperatives are economic enterprises with social obligations based on democratic values in which human factor plays a key role. The need for cooperative education in India has been emphasised by all committees, commissions and conferences that reviewed the working of cooperative movement in the country during pre-and post-independance period. The NCUI has taken a responsibility of carrying cooperative education to every corner of the country especially to the areas of cooperatively less developed states. As a result of implementation of the recommendations of All India Rural Credit Survey Committee, the NCUI in recognition of its responsibilities, formulated a scheme of member education in 1959 and implemented it in selected districts of the country. The scheme got country wide coverage in the year 1959-60. The NCUI formulates, monitors and evaluates the education programme for present members, prospective members and office bearers of cooperative societies in principles and practice of cooperation. The programme is implemented by the State Co-operative Unions as well. Special education programmes for women and youth are also in operation throughout the country keeping in view the growing needs of diversification of cooperative sector. The Union has also sponsored education projects in different crafts in various sectors of the movement like agricultural, industrial, handloom, handicrafts and women development programmes.

To build up functional efficiency of cooperative educators, the NCUI is running the National Centre for Cooperative Education (NCCE) which trains the trainers. The NCCE conducts courses for cooperative education functionaries. Leadership development programmes are conducted for non-official leaders for the development of leadership in the cooperative movement.
With a view to ensure unified and coordinated functioning of cooperative sector to face the challenges in the wake of new economic policy, the NCUI has worked out a strategy to bridge system gaps within the cooperative sector. One of the most significant roles played by the apex body in this regard was launching of National Cooperative Bank of India (NCBI) on behalf of Indian cooperative movement. The NCUI, by its dedicated efforts, has also formulated an apex body of the electric cooperative societies at the national level. It has also initiated steps to establish a cooperative Insurance system in the country so as to safeguard the interests of the cooperative sector. On the representation of the union, the Malhotra Committee on Insurance System appointed by the Government of India recommended for permitting cooperative movement to set up cooperative insurance units in the country. A technical committee has been set up to workout the details of organizational setup and products soon after the Government has taken final decision on Malhotra committee on insurance for cooperatives.

In line with the international convention, the National Cooperative Union of India sponsors celebration of All India Cooperative Week every year from 14th November to 20th November (NUCI, 1997:76). The commencement of cooperative week also coincides with the birthday of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. The basic objective behind the week long celebrations is to project the achievements of cooperatives for creating favourable public opinion, to provide an opportunity to various sectors of cooperatives, cooperators, workers and members to introspect the year's achievements, to review the progress and chalk out the plan for the coming year for strengthening the cooperatives in the country. The National Cooperative Union of India also meets the press during this event to project the achievements of cooperatives and motivate the people's participation in favour of cooperatives.

Faced with the new challenges emerging out of economic reform programme of the Government, through greater liberalization and marketing orientation of economy, a number of initiatives both at the level of cooperative movement, and Government were taken to build up competitive strength of cooperative sector.

Since the inception of new economic policy, NCUI has been interfacing with the cooperatives and cooperators about the challenges emerging out of these policies. The
subject has been deliberated and discussed at various fora of NCUI. The major landmark was organization of 12th Indian Cooperative Congress in March 1993 by the National Cooperative Union of India to discuss the role and status of cooperatives in the context of liberalized market economy. The Cooperative Congress unanimously directed the NCUI to prepare an action plan for cooperative sector so that it could successfully face the challenges and utilize the new opportunities to be thrown up by these policies. With a view to implement the directions of the cooperative congress, the Governing council of NCUI decided to organize an expert consultation among economists, cooperative leaders and executives on various implications in regard to the positioning of cooperatives in the changed context.

For taking care of these significant events, NCUI also sought assistance of International Labour Organization (ILO) which has been very much committed to strengthen and support the cooperative sector. ILO not only provides financial assistance but also effective technical input. Thus these events reflect joint efforts of NCUI and ILO for strengthening Indian Cooperative Movement.

The Central Government brought out National Agricultural policy which has opened up new opportunities for cooperatives particularly in the field of agro-processing and export oriented agriculture marketing. For small farmers, the Government has decided to set up agri-business consortium on the recommendations of NCUI so as to provide them the benefit of export markets. The NCUI has also urged the Government to initiate new and viable schemes which would help the cooperative weavers to strength the export market which was duly taken in to consideration by the Government.

The National Cooperative Union of India, as the apex organization of Indian Cooperative Movement, has also taken a number of steps on its own to promote cooperatives in new areas. Besides, the NCUI, with its dedicated efforts, has initiated to promote international cooperative trade promotion organization for providing the benefits of international trade and technology transfer to the cooperative movement of the country. For socio-economic development of women the different sectors of cooperatives have been urged upon to associate women in every activity of
cooperatives. Weaker sections have always been the thrust area of the NCUI agenda. This is sought to be achieved through expanded coverage by the cooperatives of weaker sections in the primary agricultural credit societies.

NCUI constituted a planning council which has recommended and prepared a Draft Report on the role of cooperatives in its various schemes in the context of next five year plan perspective which was duly emphasised. Meanwhile the Government of India proposed a National Policy on Cooperatives which was duly endorsed by the National cooperative Union of India. NCUI has been conveying the concerns of the cooperative movement and pleading for expeditious implementation of National Cooperative Policy and reform cooperative laws. In this process, recommendations of cooperative Ministers Conferences Convened by International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) from time to time and the Model Cooperative Law recommended by Ch. Braham Prakash Committee have been kept in view.

With a view to strengthen the competitiveness of cooperative banking institutions, the Government has introduced prudential norms and income provisioning means. The interest rates on deposits and lending have been decontrolled exposing the cooperatives to unhealthy competition. Although for commercial banks a major assistance has been provided to clean their balance sheets so as to facilitate them in maintaining prudential norms. In case of cooperative banks such assistance has not been made available by the Government. The NCUI is, therefore, pleading with the Government to provide similar assistance as has been done in case of commercial banks. The government of India has recently decided to promote local area banks for one or two contiguous districts and establish State Agricultural Development Finance Coorporation. This move will adversely effect the working of cooperative credit institutions. NCUI has convened the views of the movement and pleaded for suitable protection to cooperatives.

In the field of cooperative agro-processing, the basic problem faced by the cooperative sugar factories and cooperative spinning mills has been the problem of sickness. Similarly, there has also been the problem of technological upgradiation in the segment of cooperative movement. The National cooperative Union of India conducted a comprehensive study of problems of sickness in cooperative sugar factories and
cooperative spinning mills. Based on these studies, a series of seminars were conducted at the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management at the instance of NCUI so as to effectively sensitize the managerial personnel and managers of cooperative sugar factories and spinning mills about the need for preparation of an action plan for removing the sickness from the cooperative sugar factories and cooperative spinning mills.

Industrial cooperatives which play a significant role in the economic setup, by and large, continued to remain weak. Nearly 50% of these cooperatives are dormant (Thomas, 1997:84) Even the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives (NAFED) is dormant. The National Cooperative Union of India, therefore, took cognizance of this and appointed a working group for preparing an action plan for revival of this National Federation. The action plan is under consideration of the Government of India. The Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India has appointed a Standing Policy Advisory Group to consider various issues relating to cooperatives. It has been decided to place the recommendations of NCUI, National Convention before this Policy Advisory Group. NCUI organized this convention and expert consultation in collaboration with international Labour Organization (ILO) to consider various issues relating to adjustment of cooperatives in the new economic environment. In addition to the above, the NCUI has identified new areas in which cooperatives could be promoted. These areas are power, tourism, agro-processing, international trade etc. Action plan for creating effective institutional set up for promoting cooperative development in these areas has been initiated by NCUI.

The union also undertakes research studies in specialized fields of cooperative development. The policies and programmes of inter-sectoral character are taken up in particular. To motivate scholars and academicians to undertake research in the subject of cooperation, the union awards a few research fellowship for doctoral and post doctoral research.

The National Cooperative Union of India also convenes subject matter conferences and zonal workshops from time to time. Indian cooperative congress is the highest form of the Indian Cooperative movement which reviews the progress and
policies relating to cooperative development in the country. The NCUI convenes the congress once in three years. To project the proper image of the cooperative movement, the NCUI also undertakes publication and distribution of a variety of cooperative literature. It brings out "The Cooperator" a quarterly journal which carries the latest developments, changes, improvements challenges, revisions and above all the information of cooperative sector to the public. It also brings out cooperative news at regular intervals and publishes education material on various aspects of cooperatives for the use of trainees of training courses.

The National Cooperative Union of India has set up the National Resource Centre which consists of Cooperative Data Bank, National Library-cum-Documentation Centre and the Desk Top Publishing Unit (DTP). This promotes the usage of modern technology and computers in the management of cooperatives. The strong data base is to create awareness among its member institutions. National Resource Centre enables to develop the linkage with member institutions for regular flow of information and makes available the consolidated trends of the cooperative development to all concerned. A number of research scholars are making use of the Centre.

**ROLE OF NCUI AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

Being the apex organization of the Indian Cooperative Movement, the NCUI performs the functions relating to international cooperatives through active collaboration with ICA, UNO, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNIDO, CLUSA, Canadian Cooperative Association and other international agencies involved in cooperative development. The union takes active part in various standing committees of ICA, particularly the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi. The NCUI has established effective liaison with ICA member organizations and inter-governmental organizations such as International Labour Organization for convening of seminars/conferences etc.

The union joined the international cooperative movement as soon as it came into existence. The other members from India have joined the international cooperative alliance through this union. It has representation on the ICA Central Committee and a number of auxiliary committees. It is also a member of executive committee of ICA.
The participation of the union in the ICA congress has been substantial and valuable. The resolutions moved by it on various subjects including the one on technical assistance to developing countries were highly appreciated and adopted with unanimity. In fact, it goes to the credit of NCUI to motivate the ICA to extend its activities to the developing countries.

The union has also developed contacts and made training arrangements with the International cooperative training centres for personnel of cooperative institutions and Government departments to develop managerial competence. Quite a sizeable number of persons obtained training in the international cooperative training institutes located in UK, Canada, Former U.S.S.R, U.S.A, Choslovakia, Germany, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Korea, Japan, Poland, Sweden, etc. It has also established contacts with UN agencies such as UNESCO, ILO, FAO and other international organizations, Governmental and non-Governmental agencies such as AARRO, COPAC, IFAPP etc.

The union made efforts to solicit International assistance and collaboration in the field of cooperative education and other fields. It collaborated with the “Feasibility Study Teams”, of US cooperatives on Fertilizer production, marketing and oil seeds, rural electrification etc. which promoted the idea of promoting IFFCO, Rural Electrification Cooperatives etc.

The union utilized its efforts to organize various kinds of conferences at national as well as international levels. It organized the third Asian Agricultural Conference in 1967, collaborated with the ICA in convening seminars on cooperative leadership in south East Asia in 1966, International Conference on Education and Training in 1968, International conferences on credit in 1977. The union was one of the co-sponsors of the second International Conference on Cooperative Thrift and Credit.

The union is also providing technical assistance in its own way to other cooperative sectors and movements. It received participants for various courses conducted at the cooperative training colleges and VAMNICOM under the Colombo Plan and Special Common Wealth African Assistance Plan from countries like Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania,
Thailand etc. A number of persons, both officials and non officials, also came to study the working of the cooperative movement in India from several advanced and developing countries. The union is also assisting the scholars of foreign Countries/Universities working on the problems relating to cooperative development /cooperative movement.

The union has played an important role in bringing about a coordinated approach among international training centres. Its representation is on the executive of AGIT Cooperative, an expert advisory group at the ICA level. It has extended assistance to CEMAS in assessing the needs of training institutions in India. The union has also representation on the expert group for South East Asia, a working group to advise ICA Regional Office and Education Centre for South East Asia, New Delhi.

The union recognizing itself as a part of the international cooperative movement offered token monetary assistance to the cyclone affected people of the region. It also supported resolutions of the ICA on promotion of international peace. With these and several other activities at the national as well as at the international level, the union has made a place for itself in international field.