

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. -990
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/07/2023

USE OF DRONE IN FARMING

990. # SHRI BRIJLAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to buy 2,500 drones for spraying bottled liquid Nano Urea and Diammonium phosphate (DAP) in fields and train 5,000 youths to operate them and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has entered into any agreement with drone manufacturing companies for this and if so, the details thereof and by when the procurement is likely to be completed; and
- (c) the details of expected benefits to farmers through drone technology?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) has provided Rs. 52.50 crores to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for purchase of 300 Kisan Drones and organizing their demonstrations on the farmers' fields in 75000 hectares through 100 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), 75 ICAR institutions and 25 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). The funds amounting to Rs. 82.05 Crores have also been provided to various State Governments for supply of 347 Kisan Drone to farmers on subsidy and establishment of 1573 Kisan Drone Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) to provide drone services to the farmers. As per the guidelines of SMAM, there is a provision for conducting training and demonstration programs for the benefit of farmers, where the farmers besides the free lodging facilities, can be provided with a stipend and to & fro travel expenses.

The use of drone in agriculture have some distinct advantages for the benefit of farmers which include high field capacity and efficiency of operation, less turnaround time and other field operational delays, wastage reduction of pesticide and fertilizers due to high degree of atomization, water saving due to ultra-low volume spraying technology in comparison to traditional spraying methods, reduction in cost of spraying and fertilizer application in comparison to conventional methods etc. besides reduction of human exposure to hazardous chemicals.
