

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 49**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

**NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME**

\*49 SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched the Namo Drone Didi Scheme to empower women Self Help Groups (SHGs) by providing drones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith aims and objectives;
- (c) the number of women SHGs that are targeted to receive drone and training to operate them effectively under the scheme in Maharashtra;
- (d) the measures that are in place to ensure sustainable employment for those trained through the scheme;
- (e) the manner in which Government plan to ensure equitable access to this scheme across urban and rural areas; and
- (f) the other steps taken by Government to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme?

**ANSWER**  
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT (a) to (f) REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*49 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024**

(a) & (b) : Yes. The Government of India has launched the NAMO Drone Didi scheme as a Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs), with an outlay of Rs. 1,261 Crores for the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26. The scheme aims to provide drones to 15,000 select Women SHGs. The major objectives of the scheme are:

- (i) to promote advance technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhanced crop yield and reduced cost of operation;
- (ii) to empower Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) promoted under DeendayalAntyodayaYojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) as drone service providers, since they have emerged as effective grass-root level institutions for collective interventions;
- (iii) to provide business opportunities to Women SHGs and their CLFs promoted under DAY – NRLM to increase their income;
- (iv) to increase the opportunities for rural employment; and
- (v) to encourage the use of Nano-fertilizers and to optimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

(c): In Maharashtra, 30 drones have been provided to SHG members (Drone Didis) in the year 2023-24 and 325 drones have been allocated in the year 2024-25. The Drone Didis are imparted mandatory drone pilot training and additional training for agriculture purpose for nutrient and pesticide application. The other member/ family member of the SHGs with inclination to take up repairs of electrical goods, fitting and mechanical works selected by the State Level Committee shall be trained as drone assistant.

(d): The drones provided to the SHGs will be used by them for providing rental services to the farmers for spraying of liquid fertilizers & pesticides. The Lead Fertilizer companies (LFCs) will promote use of Nano fertilizers by the drones and will provide business to SHGs. The Committee at the State level shall also ensure business to selected Women SHGs in coordination with the LFCs and Pesticide companies.

(e): This scheme is presently aimed at SHG members in Rural Areas only. Drone allotment to the States have been made based on the total cropped area, total amount of nano fertilizer usage and the number of SHGs to ensure equitable access.

(f): The Scheme is being monitored at the Central level by an Empowered Committee of the Secretaries of Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Department of Rural Development, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Women and Child Development. Further, Committees at the State level have been constituted with members drawn from Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Engineering, Rural Development, State Mission Directorate of DAY-NRLM, State Cooperative Department, Lead Banks/ National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), representatives of Lead Fertilizer company nominated for the State, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/KrishiVigyanKendras (KVKs), for effective implementation of the scheme.

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