

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 483
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

PROMOTION OF DRONE TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

483. SHRI RAVI CHANDRA VADDIRAJU:

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

- (a) whether Government is promoting drone technology in agriculture in Telangana;
- (b) if so, the details of agricultural areas that are being targeted for its implementation;
- (c) whether steps are being taken to ensure effective training for farmers and Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Telangana for the use of drones; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The Government has approved 'Namo Drone Didi' as Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crores for the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26. The scheme aims to provide drones to 15000 selected Women SHGs. Out of the total 15,000 drones targeted to be supplied under the scheme, the first 500 drones have been procured by Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) in 2023-24, using their internal resources and distributed to the selected SHGs, which include 72 drones supplied to SHGs of the State of Telangana. During the financial year 2024-25, it has been targeted to distribute drones to 3090 SHGs in the first phase out of which 79 drones have been allocated for the SHGs from the State of Telangana. Central Financial Assistance @ 80% of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of Rs. 8.0 lakhs will be provided to the women SHGs for purchase of drones as a package. The Committee at State level with members drawn from Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Engineering of the State, Rural Development, State Mission Directorate of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), State Cooperative Department, Lead Banks/ National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), representatives of Lead Fertilizer Company (LFC) nominated for the state, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) is responsible for selection of appropriate clusters for drone usage, selection of the progressive women SHGs under DAY - NRLM in the States in the identified clusters for providing drones, selection of members of the women SHGs for drone pilot and drone assistant training, assessment of district-wise drone usage, identification of existing gap, availability and future requirements of drone usage, providing/ensuring business to selected Women SHGs in coordination with the LFCs and Pesticide companies etc.

(c) & (d): The drone package also include training for one of the members of the SHG for fifteen days at Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTO) recognized by Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The training covers drone flying, understanding provisions of Drone Rules, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for nutrient and pesticide application, drone flying practice for agriculture purpose and minor repair & maintenance of drones. The training for agriculture purpose will be conducted by a team consisting of drone manufacturers, experts from Central/State Institutes like SAUs, KVKs, ICAR institutes etc. The other member/ family member of the selected SHG with inclination to take up repairs of electrical goods, fitting and mechanical works will be selected by the State Level Committee who will be trained as drone assistant for 5 days.
