

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 486
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME

486. SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether Government has launched Namo Drone Didi scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the said scheme;
- (c) whether Government has issued directives for operation of the said scheme and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the funds sanctioned and released by Government for implementation of the said scheme;
- (e) the criteria laid down by Government for selection of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to provide drones to farmers on rent; and
- (f) the manner in which this scheme will be helpful in generating employment to SHGs?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): 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 Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) have procured the first 500 drones in 2023-24, using their internal resources and distributed to the selected SHGs. During the financial year 2024-25, it has been targeted to distribute drones to 3090 SHGs in the first phase.

The scheme is being implemented by converging the resources of Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare (DA&FW), Department of Rural Development (DoRD) and Department of Fertilizers (DoF), Women SHGs promoted under DAY - NRLM and Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs). The Committee at State level with members drawn from various line Departments and institutions 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.

The drone package also includes mandatory drone pilot training and additional training for agriculture purpose for nutrient and pesticide application for one of the members of these women SHGs. The other member/ family member of the SHGs will also be trained as drone assistant. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has already issued the detailed operational guidelines of the scheme in October 2024.

The scheme aims to provide sustainable business and livelihood support to SHGs. 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 LFCs shall promote use of Nano fertilizers by the drones and will provide business to SHGs. The Committee at the State level shall provide/ensure business to selected Women SHGs in coordination with the LFCs and Pesticide companies.
