

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 489**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

**DISTRIBUTION OF DRONES TO SHGs**

489. SHRI YERRAM VENKATA SUBBA REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 500 drones have already been distributed to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) out of proposed 15,000 drones for rental services to farmers;
- (b) the number of women SHGs that received drones in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) whether the remaining 14,500 drones are going to be provided in current year and 2025-26;
- (d) if so, the number of women SHGs going to get drones in Andhra Pradesh;
- (e) the details of training that Government is going to provide to women SHGs for operation and maintenance of drones; and
- (f) the details about drone assistant and how are they going to help drone didis?

**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, which include 96 drones supplied to SHGs of the State of Andhra Pradesh. During the financial year 2024-25, it has been targeted to distribute drones to 3090 SHGs in the first phase out of which 90 SHGs are from the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The Committee at State level with members drawn from Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Engineering of the State, 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)/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.

The drone package also includes 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 given training for 5 days as drone assistant and he/she will assist drone didi in overall preparation of the drones for operation including minor maintenance. However, the drone assistant will not be eligible for drone flying.

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