

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 497
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

PROMOTION OF KISAN DRONES

497. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether Government is taking measures to promote Kisan Drones in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the measures being taken in this regard;
- (c) the progress made as a result of the same;
- (d) the potential benefits accruing out of the same; and
- (e) the other measures proposed to be taken in this respect for automation in agriculture?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (e): Use of drones in agriculture have distinct advantages like increased efficiency, cost effectiveness due to reduction in cost of spraying, saving of fertilizers and pesticides due to high degree of atomization, saving of water due to ultra-low volume spraying, besides reduction of human exposure to hazardous chemicals. The use of drones in agriculture also have catalytic effect in creating both direct as well as indirect employment in the agriculture sector.

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is promoting adoption of Kisan Drones by the farmers. Financial assistance under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is provided for demonstration of kisan drones on farmers' fields, purchase of drones by the farmers on individual ownership basis and establishment of Custom Hiring Centres of Kisan drones for providing services of drones to farmers on rental basis.

Under SMAM, the funds amounting to Rs. 141.39 crores have been released so far towards Kisan Drone promotion, which includes Rs. 52.50 crores released to the ICAR for

purchase of Kisan Drones and organizing their demonstrations on the farmers' fields through 100 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), 75 Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions and 25 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). The institutions of ICAR have procured 296 drones and 287 personnel from these institutions have undergone Drone Pilot Training. These Institutions have carried out 27,099 drone demonstrations on nutrients, fertilizers and pesticide applications following the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) covering 30,235 hectare area. The funds have been released to the State Governments for supply of 527 Kisan Drone to farmers on subsidy and establishment of 1595 Kisan Drone CHCs to provide drone services to the farmers.

The Government has also 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. Under this scheme, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) @ 80% of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of Rs. 8.00 lakhs per drone will be provided to the 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. During the financial year 2024-25, it has been targeted to distribute drones to 3090 SHGs in the first phase.
