

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-511
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL ROLLOUT OF NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME

511. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) the current status of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Namo Drone Didi to empower women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by equipping them with drone technology to provide agricultural services;
- (b) whether any Committee has been constituted to guide and supervise the technical and operational rollout to ensure comprehensive governance;
- (c) whether the scheme will be implemented at State level, and if so, the criteria adopted to implement and evaluate at State level; and
- (d) whether Government is taking a significant step to inspire new generation of women entrepreneurs in Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): 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 for providing rental services to the farmers for spraying of liquid fertilizers & pesticides.

The scheme is also being implemented in the State of Himachal Pradesh. 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 04 drones supplied to SHGs of the State of Himachal Pradesh. During the financial year 2024-25, it has been targeted to distribute drones to 3090 SHGs in the first phase out of which 16 SHGs are from the State of Himachal Pradesh.

An Empowered Committee consisting of Secretaries of Departments of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, Fertilizers, Women and Child Development and Ministry of Civil Aviation has been constituted having the powers to decide/modify scheme design during course of scheme implementation subject to overall scheme outlay being within the amount recommended by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and approved by the Cabinet. An inter-departmental committee involving representatives of all other line Departments and domain experts has also been constituted for effective planning, implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

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 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.
