

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *108
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025

DRONE SHAKTI INITIATIVE

#*108 Dr. Kalpana Saini:

Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state?

- (a) the details of the areas receiving training under the Drone Shakti initiative and the number of youths trained so far;
- (b) the direct benefits from this initiative as received by the youth in rural areas, particularly the farmers; and
- (c) the training institutes or ITIs engaged in implementing this programme and the concrete results visible in terms of employment generation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *108 ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025 REGARDING 'DRONE
SHAKTI INITIATIVE'**

(a) to (c): Under the Drone Shakti initiative, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing two drone-related skill training courses of six months duration each, namely the Drone Technician Course and the Drone Pilot (Junior). These courses are run in some of the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS).

These drone-related CTS courses are currently being offered in 27 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the country, where 844 candidates have been trained during the last two academic sessions (2023–24 to 2024–25). In addition, these courses are also being conducted in five National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), which are the premier institutions for Crafts Instructor Training under DGT, MSDE. Till date, 252 candidates have been trained in these courses in NSTIs during the same period.

A total of 1096 candidates have accordingly been trained under CTS in ITIs and NSTIs. The state-wise number of candidates trained under CTS in ITIs and NSTIs in the last two academic sessions, i.e., 2023-24 to 2024 -25 is attached at *Annexure-1*.

After successful completion of the training under these courses, some candidates have obtained employment in local drone-related enterprises.

MSDE has also conducted two-week programmes for Training of Trainers for drone technologies, under which 495 instructors from ITIs and NSTIs across the country have been trained, in recognition of the need to equip trainers for this emerging field.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0, a total of 25,633 candidates have also been trained/oriented so far in various short-term drone related courses. These courses include Drone Manufacturing and Assembly Technician, Drone Operator- Multi Rotor, Drone Service Technician and Kisan Drone Operator. The State-wise, Job role-wise details of the number of candidates trained/ oriented in each course are attached at *Annexure-2*.

In addition to the training initiatives by the MSDE, the training for the drone pilots is also conducted at Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTOs) registered by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in accordance with Drone Rules 2021. This training is conducted in accordance with the provisions in the Drone Training Circulars 2022 issued by the (DGCA), under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. As of June, 2025, a total of 23,451 candidates have been issued the Remote Pilot Certificates. There are a total of 186 DGCA authorized RPTOs in the country.

Apart from the training-related initiatives, the Government has also approved the Namo Drone Didi Scheme as a Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of ₹1,261 crore for a period of three years (2023–24 to 2025–26). The scheme aims to promote advanced technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhanced crop yield, and reduced cost of operations, while also empowering Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) as drone service providers to increase their income and provide livelihood support.

The Namo Drone Didi Scheme, targets to provide 15,000 Drones to Women SHGs. The Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) have distributed 1094 drones to SHGs in 2023-24 by utilizing their internal resources. Out of these 1094 drone, 500 drones have been distributed to SHGs

under the Namo Drone Didi Scheme. As a part of drone package under this scheme, the training is conducted in DGCA approved Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTOs).

Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare conducted a study through Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC) Bangalore on 500 drones distributed by LFCs. It was found that the introduction of drones has created full-time employment for the Drone Didis in the village, except during the off-season months of April and May. Through this drone initiative, the drone didis have successfully achieved women empowerment in their community.

MSDE has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a leading industry partner to implement a 'pilot' under the Namo Drone Didi program at two NSTIs located in Hyderabad and Noida. The industry partner is extending support in terms of infrastructure, program coordination, and outcome monitoring to help in implementation of the program.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER *108 ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025 REGARDING DRONE SHAKTI INITIATIVE

State-wise number of candidates trained under Drone related courses under CTS in ITIs and NSTIs in last two academic sessions (2023-24 to 2024-25)

Sr. No.	State	No. of candidates trained in ITIs	No. of candidates trained in NSTIs	Total
1.	Gujarat	16	-	16
2.	Jharkhand	100	-	100
3.	Kerala	-	21	21
4.	Madhya Pradesh	49	-	49
5.	Odisha	107	13	120
6.	Tamil Nadu	28	36	64
7.	Telangana	6	168	174
8.	The Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	20	-	20
9.	Uttar Pradesh	-	14	14
10.	West Bengal	518	-	518
Total		844	252	1,096

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER *108 ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025 REGARDING DRONE SHAKTI INITIATIVE

State-wise, Job role wise number of candidates trained/oriented in various short-term drone related courses under PMKVY 4.0

Sr. No.	States	Drone Manufacturing and Assembly Technician	Drone Operator - Multi Rotor	Drone Service Technician	Kisan Drone Operator
1.	Andhra Pradesh	69	-	1362	40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	60	-
3.	Assam	51	-	219	-
4.	Bihar	657	-	450	130
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	30	-
6.	Delhi	0	-	173	-
7.	Gujarat	150	-	2005	1187
8.	Haryana	991	-	150	80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	30	98
10.	Jammu And Kashmir	47	-	1233	-
11.	Jharkhand	232	-	133	-
12.	Karnataka	915	-	572	14
13.	Kerala	30	-	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	379	-	1301	789
15.	Maharashtra	112	-	60	124
16.	Meghalaya	33	-	76	-
17.	Mizoram	87	-	-	-
18.	Nagaland	-	-	83	-
19.	Odisha	-	-	75	-
20.	Punjab	738	-	-	-
21.	Rajasthan	1094	-	2030	115
22.	Tamil Nadu	996	70	665	0
23.	Telangana	242	-	-	-
24.	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman and Diu	-	-	237	-
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1087	-	3252	332
26.	Uttarakhand	-	117	340	0
27.	West Bengal	91	-	-	-
Total		8001	187	14536	2909
Grand Total		25,633			
