

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. -1602
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/02/2026

DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL DRONES UNDER NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME

1602. SHRI SUBHASH BARALA:
SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:
SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:
DR. DINESH SHARMA:
DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:
DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:
SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:
SMT. RAMILABEN BECHARBHAI BARA:
SHRI UJJWAL DEORAO NIKAM:
SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:
SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:
SMT. SADHNA SINGH:
SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI CHUNNILAL GARASIYA:

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

- (a) the number of agricultural drones distributed to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the Namu Drone Didi scheme as of January, 2026;
- (b) the number of women who have completed the prescribed pilot and drone assistant training during the current financial year;
- (c) the number of trained women who have obtained Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) authorised drone operation licences; and
- (d) the number of women who have achieved income enhancement through drone rental services during 2024–25?

ANSWER

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. As per the information provided by the Department of Fertilizers, Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) have distributed 1094 drones to drone didis of SHGs in 2023-24 using their internal resources. Out of these 1094 drones distributed, 500 drones have been distributed under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme. The drone didis provided with the drones have been trained as drone pilots at various Remote Pilot Training Organizations (RPTOs) authorized by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The State-wise number of drones distributed to SHGs by the LFCs as on January 2026 and the members of SHGs given drone pilot training is indicated in Annexure-I.

Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Bangalore have carried out a study on economics and business viability of drone operations on these 500 drones provided by LFCs under Namu Drone Didi scheme. The study indicates that the SHGs earlier were primarily engaged in agriculture and allied activities and the drones provided to them has expanded their niche to modern agricultural practices through drone technology, enhancing their efficiency and productivity. Overall, the adoption of drones has diversified SHG activities, improved agricultural practices, and increased income opportunities for women in rural communities.

Annexure-I

State-wise number of drones distributed to SHGs by the LFCs as on January 2026 and the members of SHGs given drone pilot training

S. No	State Name	No. of SHGs provided with the Drones by LFCs & No. of members of Women SHGs trained as drone pilot
1.	Andhra Pradesh	108
2.	Assam	28
3.	Bihar	32
4.	Chhattisgarh	15
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	58
7.	Haryana	102
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4
9.	J&K	2
10.	Jharkhand	15
11.	Karnataka	145
12.	Kerala	51
13.	Madhya Pradesh	89
14.	Maharashtra	60
15.	Odisha	16
16.	Punjab	57
17.	Rajasthan	40
18.	Tamil Nadu	44
19.	Telangana	81
20.	Uttar Pradesh	128
21.	Uttarakhand	3
22.	West Bengal	15
Total		1094
