

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3029
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026

‘LAKHPATI DIDI’ AND ‘NAMO DRONE DIDI’ INITIATIVES

3029. SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise number of women beneficiaries who have received certified technical training under the 'Lakhpati-Didi' and 'Namo-Drone-Didi' initiatives and the sectors in which such training has been imparted;
- (b) the State-wise and nationwide number of women who have achieved 'Lakhpati-Didi' status and the number of Women Self-Help Groups provided with drones under the Namo-Drone-Didi initiative as on date;
- (c) the total budgetary allocation made for these initiatives since their inception and the corresponding expenditure incurred thereunder, State-wise details thereof; and
- (d) the State-wise details of the increase in income generated through drone rental services and other allied livelihood activities undertaken by these groups?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (c): The Lakhpati Didi Initiative is an outcome of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development. The initiative aims to empower and enable women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to earn a minimum annual income of Rs. 1 lakh on a sustainable basis for at least four agricultural seasons and/or business cycles. No certified technical training is provided under the Lakhpati Didi initiative.

The Namo Drone Didi Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in convergence with other Ministries/Departments. Under the Scheme, drones are supplied as a package, which includes training for one member of the SHG for 15 days. The training covers drone flying, provisions of the Drone Rules, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for nutrient and pesticide application, drone-flying practice for agricultural purposes, and

minor repair and maintenance of drones. Under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme, 500 SHG members have been trained and certified as drone pilots.

The State-wise details of women who have achieved Lakhpati Didi status are at **Annexure-I**. The State-wise details of SHG members trained and certified as drone pilots under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme are at **Annexure-II**.

All activities under the Lakhpati Didi initiative, such as training and capacity building, as well as financial support including seed funding, are supported under the DAY-NRLM scheme. For additional financial requirements, support to SHG members is facilitated through bank linkage and bank loans.

The Government has approved the Namu Drone Didi Scheme as a Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), with an outlay of Rs. 1,261 crore for the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26. As per the information provided by the Department of Fertilizers, Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) distributed 1,094 drones to Drone Didis of SHGs in 2023-24 using their internal resources. Out of these, 500 drones have been distributed under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme. All such SHG members have been provided training at the Remote Pilot Training Organisations (RPTOs) authorised by DGCA. The training included both drone flying (pilot training) and actual field operations, such as spraying of liquid fertilizers and pesticides. The State-wise details of women beneficiaries who have received certified technical training under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme are given at **Annexure-III**.

(d): The Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Bengaluru has carried out a study on the economics and business viability of operations of the 500 drones provided by the Lead Fertilizer Companies under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme. The study indicates that the SHGs concerned were earlier primarily engaged in agriculture and allied activities, and that the drones provided to them have expanded their participation in modern agricultural practices through drone technology, thereby enhancing 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

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3029 FOR ANSWER ON 18.03.2026 REGARDING 'LAKHPATI DIDI' AND 'NAMO DRONE DIDI' INITIATIVES RAISED BY SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE

State-wise number of women who have achieved 'Lakhpati-Didi' status:

| Sl.No. | Name of State | Total Lakhpati Didis (as on 31.12.2025) |
|--------|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Andaman And Nicobar | 630 |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 21,12,195 |
| 3 | Arunachal Pradesh | 14,244 |
| 4 | Assam | 9,05,481 |
| 5 | Bihar | 42,63,802 |
| 6 | Chhattisgarh | 7,98,171 |
| 7 | DNH And Daman Diu | 2,833 |
| 8 | Goa | 4,479 |
| 9 | Gujarat | 10,92,467 |
| 10 | Haryana | 1,55,146 |
| 11 | Himachal Pradesh | 1,33,401 |
| 12 | Jammu & Kashmir | 2,30,670 |
| 13 | Jharkhand | 7,25,898 |
| 14 | Karnataka | 6,46,103 |
| 15 | Kerala | 4,78,432 |
| 16 | Ladakh | 78 |
| 17 | Lakshadweep | 0 |
| 18 | Madhya Pradesh | 22,77,814 |
| 19 | Maharashtra | 38,79,495 |
| 20 | Manipur | 22,564 |
| 21 | Meghalaya | 72,629 |

| | | |
|----|---------------|--------------------|
| 22 | Mizoram | 30,670 |
| 23 | Nagaland | 16,360 |
| 24 | Odisha | 21,61,661 |
| 25 | Puducherry | 13,127 |
| 26 | Punjab | 3,24,811 |
| 27 | Rajasthan | 12,92,769 |
| 28 | Sikkim | 14,719 |
| 29 | Tamil Nadu | 8,96,442 |
| 30 | Telangana | 16,81,356 |
| 31 | Tripura | 1,58,313 |
| 32 | Uttar Pradesh | 30,83,219 |
| 33 | Uttarakhand | 1,97,151 |
| 34 | West Bengal | 30,46,690 |
| | Total | 3,07,33,820 |

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3029 FOR ANSWER ON 18.03.2026 REGARDING 'LAKHPATI DIDI' AND 'NAMO DRONE DIDI' INITIATIVES RAISED BY SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE

State-wise details of SHG members trained and certified as drone pilot under Namu Drone Didi Scheme

| S.No | State / UT | No of Drones provided |
|------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 96 |
| 2 | Assam | 9 |
| 3 | Bihar | 5 |
| 4 | Chhattisgarh | 12 |
| 5 | Gujarat | 18 |
| 6 | Haryana | 22 |
| 7 | Himachal Pradesh | 4 |
| 8 | Jharkhand | 1 |
| 9 | Karnataka | 82 |
| 10 | Kerala | 2 |
| 11 | Madhya Pradesh | 34 |
| 12 | Maharashtra | 30 |
| 13 | Odisha | 12 |
| 14 | Punjab | 23 |
| 15 | Rajasthan | 19 |
| 16 | Tamil Nadu | 17 |
| 17 | Telangana | 72 |
| 18 | Uttar Pradesh | 32 |
| 19 | Uttarakhand | 3 |
| 20 | West Bengal | 7 |
| | Total | 500 |

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State-wise number of women beneficiaries who have received certified technical training under the 'Namo-Drone-Didi' initiatives

| S.No | State Name | No. of SHGs |
|------|------------------|-------------|
| 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 |