

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. -1470
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31/07/2026

SCHEMES TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION

1470. Shri Jaggesh:

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

- (a) whether Government has implemented schemes to promote agricultural mechanization and provide modern agricultural machinery to farmers across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the number and value of agricultural machines distributed, including under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM), since 2021-22;
- (c) whether Government has taken special measures to increase access to farm equipment in underserved regions and the North-Eastern States;
- (d) whether financial assistance has been provided for promoting drone-based precision agriculture; and
- (e) whether Government has assessed the impact of these initiatives on productivity, cost reduction, sustainable farming and farmers' incomes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing a dedicated scheme of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to promote agricultural mechanization in the country. It has the major objectives of increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low and promoting 'Custom Hiring Centers' to offset the adverse economies of scale arising due to small land holding and high cost of individual ownership of agricultural machines.

Along with the SMAM, the Crop Residue Management (CRM) Scheme is also implemented in the State of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and NCT of Delhi to promote sustainable crop residue management through the provision of subsidized agricultural machinery, establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), and other measures aimed at reducing stubble burning.

Besides SMAM and CRM, horticulture mechanization is promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to improve farm efficiency and reduce drudgery of farm work force. Assistance under MIDH is provided for activities such as procurement of power operated machines and tools including plant protection

equipments including import of new machines. Under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), support is provided in the form of interest subvention, credit guarantee coverage, and medium to long term debt financing for eligible agriculture infrastructure projects like CHCs and Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs).

(b): During the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26, the central funds amounting to Rs. 6697.34 Crores have been provided under SMAM to the States. The States have supplied 10,95,804 machines to the individual farmers and established 29,490 CHCs. During the same period under CRM, the funds amounting to Rs. 2801.41 Crores have been provided and the States have established 14,503 CHCs of CRM machinery and supplied 1,79,522 machines to these CHCs and individual farmers in the States. Under MIDH, 95,838 machines have been supplied to the farmers.

(c): The SMAM provides enhanced support to improve farm machinery access in Himalayan and North-Eastern Region (NER), through a favorable 90:10 Centre-State funding ratio. Farmers and institutions in North-Eastern States receive higher rates of financial assistance compared with general areas. In the North Eastern region, financial assistance @ 100% of the cost of machines limited to Rs.1.25 lakh is provided. The rate of financial assistance for establishing Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs) is @ 95% of the project cost for the projects up to Rs. 30 lakhs. FMBs facilitate availability of farm equipment on a rental basis, especially for the farmers who are unable to purchase costly machinery on individual ownership basis.

(d): Use of drones in agriculture are promoted under SMAM by providing financial assistance up to 50% for agriculture graduates, Small and Marginal farmers, Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Women farmers and the farmers of the North Eastern States for procuring kisan drones. For others farmers the rate of financial assistance for purchase of kisan drones is @ 40%. The financial assistance @ 40% of the cost is also provided for establishing Custom Hiring Centres of Kisan Drones.

(e): An impact evaluation study of the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) conducted by Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog under Package 1 (Agriculture & Allied Sector) highlighted that the scheme effectively addresses the needs of small and marginal farmers, particularly through the availability of rental machinery and Custom Hiring Centres. The study, based on primary fieldwork, stakeholder consultations and Management Information System (MIS data), noted that agricultural mechanization remains a critical intervention for improving farm productivity and easing labour constraints. The data from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) indicates that India's farm power availability increased significantly from 0.372 kW/ha in 1971-72 to 3.045 kW/ha in 2021-22.
