

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
Lok Sabha**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1521  
( TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15th December 2022 )**

**DRONE FACILITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

**1521. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH**

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION**

**be pleased to state:-**

- (a) whether the Government is focusing on drone facilities within the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the details of the number of areas likely to be covered under this facility;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to focus on agriculture sector of the country in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the details of ways in which drone would help agriculture sector?**

**ANSWER**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (DR)  
V. K. SINGH (RETD))**

**(a) to (b): Yes Sir, Drones have applications in almost all sectors of the economy. These include agriculture, vaccine delivery, surveillance, search and rescue, transportation, mapping, defence and law enforcement to name a few.**

**The Government released the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021 on 25th August 2021. In order to encourage manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Ministry of Civil Aviation has sensitised various Union Ministries and State governments to promote use of drones.**

**Drone outreach programmes were conducted in various States and Union Territories to promote use of drones, encourage startups for innovation, research and development in the emerging sector.**

**DGCA has approved 36 Remote Pilot Training Organisations which are more commonly known as Drone schools. In order to skill people in the safe handling of drones, these facilities have already trained over 1900 drone pilots.**

**(c) to (d) In order to promote the use of drone technology in agriculture, the following provisions have been made under the guidelines of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW):**

**(i) Financial assistance @ 100% of the cost of agriculture drones up to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs per drone is provided for purchase of drones by institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), State and other Central Government Agricultural Institutions/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Government of India engaged in agricultural activities. The Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) are provided grants up to 75% of the cost of agriculture drone for its demonstrations on the farmers fields.**

**(ii) For individual purchase of drones, the Small and Marginal, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, Women and North Eastern State farmers are provided financial assistance @ 50% of the cost up to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and other farmers @ 40% up to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs.**

**(iii) Looking into the unique advantages of Drones in agriculture, the DA&FW has released the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which provide concise instructions for effective and safe operations of drones for pesticide and nutrient application.;**

**(iv) Advantages of deploying Drone in agriculture include high field capacity and efficiency, less turnaround time and other operational delays, wastage reduction of pesticide (around 30%), water saving (around 90%) due to ultra-low volume spraying technology in comparison to conventional spraying method.**

**\*\*\*\*\***