

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2755
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH DECEMBER 2023

NEW REVOLUTION IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN GUJARAT

2755. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BHABHOR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring a new revolution in agriculture sector in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of drones, procured and the name of places where the said drones were utilised in Agriculture Sector during the last three years;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to recruit youth as drone pilots; and
- (e) if so, the action plan thereof in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (e): Agriculture is a State subject. Government of India supports and facilitates the State Governments including Gujarat through many Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes to promote agriculture throughout the country and to help small and marginal farmers to gain access to modern agriculture technology. Use of drones in agriculture have distinct advantages like increased efficiency, cost effectiveness due to reduction in cost of spraying, saving of fertilizers and pesticides due to high degree of atomization, saving of water due to ultra-low volume spraying etc. besides reduction of human exposure to hazardous chemicals. The use of drones in agriculture also have catalytic effect in creating both direct as well as indirect employment in the agriculture sector. As per the information provided by the Government of Gujarat, the Department of Agriculture, Farmers Welfare & Cooperation of the State has taken a special programme from year 2022-23 for use of drone technology in agriculture specifically for spraying of water soluble fertilizer including

nano urea and spraying of crop protection chemicals/Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) approved liquid fertilizers/bio-fertilizers.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) has provided central funds amounting to Rs. 52.50 Crores to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for purchase of Kisan Drones and organizing their demonstrations on the farmers' fields through 100 Kishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), 75 ICAR institutions and 25 State Agriculture Universities (SAUs). 263 Kisan Drones have been procured by 193 Institutions of ICAR across the country. 260 personnel from these institutions have undergone Drone Pilot Training. With a view to create awareness on the advantages of drone in agriculture, these Institutions have carried out 15,075 drone demonstrations on nutrients, fertilizers, chemicals (insect & pest) applications following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) covering 16,471 hectare area. The institutions identified by ICAR for providing drones in the State of Gujarat are enclosed as Annexure-I.

The Union Government has also recently approved 'Namo Drone Didi' Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crores. The scheme aims to provide drones to 15000 selected Women SHGs for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose (application of fertilizers and pesticides). Of the total 15,000 drones, first 500 drones will be procured by Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) in 2023-24, using their internal resources for distribution to selected SHGs. Remaining 14500 drones will be provided under this scheme during 2024-25 and 2025-26 and Central Financial Assistance @ 80% of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of Rs. 8.0 lakhs will be provided to the women SHGs for purchase of drones. The Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) of SHGs may raise the balance amount (total cost of procurement minus subsidy) as loan under National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility (AIF). Interest subvention @ 3% on the AIF loan will be provided to the CLFs. Under this scheme, one of the members from each selected women SHGs will be provided drone pilot training and other member/ family member of the SHGs will be trained as drone technician/assistant. The scheme will help in infusing advance technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhanced crop yield and reduced cost of operation for the benefit of farmers. The scheme will also provide sustainable business and livelihood support to SHGs and they would be able to earn additional income of at least Rs. 1.0 lakhs per annum.

Institutions identified by ICAR for providing drones in the State of Gujarat

S. No.	Name of the Institution
1	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Navsari NAU Campus, Distt. Navsari-396450
2	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dethali, Distt. Kheda-378210
3	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Panchmahal (CIAH) Vejalpur (Godhra) Distt. Panchmahal-389340
4	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kodinar Taluka, Distt. Junagadh
5	ICAR-Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagadh
6	ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Anand
7	Anand Agricultural University (AAU), Anand
8	Junagadh Agricultural University (JAU), Junagarh
