

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2105
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH 2022

REDUCING AGRICULTURAL COSTS

2105. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:
SHRIMATI MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken rational measures to increase the use of technology in agriculture and to reduce agricultural cost;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is emphasizing on concerted policy efforts with all the stakeholders to promote agricultural techniques including drone to improve the supply chain; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): Government of India supports and facilitates the State Governments through many Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes to promote agriculture throughout the country and to help farmers to gain access to modern agriculture technology for increasing agriculture production and productivity, improving utilization efficiency of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and irrigation water, besides reducing human drudgery associated with various agricultural operations. Keeping in view the vital role of agricultural mechanization to modernize agriculture, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization' (SMAM) is being implemented through the State Governments w.e.f. 2014-15, with major the objectives of increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers and to the regions where availability of farm power is low. Under this scheme, besides performance testing of agricultural machinery and equipment, capacity building of farmers & end users and promoting farm mechanization through demonstrations, financial assistance @ 40% to 50% of the cost depending on the categories of farmers, is provided for purchase of agricultural machines. Financial assistance @ 40% of the project cost is also provided to rural youth & farmer as an entrepreneur, Cooperative Societies of Farmers, Registered Farmers Societies, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Panchayats for establishment of Custom

Hiring Centres and Hi-tech hubs of high value agricultural machines. Financial assistance @ 80% of the project cost for the projects costing upto Rs. 10 Lakhs is provided to the Cooperative Societies, Registered Farmer Societies, FPOs and Panchayats for setting up of village level Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs). The rate of financial assistance for the North Eastern States for establishment of FMBs is @95% of the project cost.

Looking into the unique advantages of Drone technologies in agriculture, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use of drones in pesticide and nutrient application in public domain in December 2021, which provide concise instructions for effective and safe operations of drones. In order to make this technology affordable to the farmers and other stakeholders of this sector, financial assistance @ 100 % cost of drone together with the contingent expenditure is extended under SMAM for its demonstration on the farmer's fields. In order to provide agricultural services through drone application, financial assistance @ 40% of the basic cost of drone and its attachments or Rs.4 lakhs, whichever less is also provided for drone purchase by existing and new Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) under Cooperative Society of Farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Rural entrepreneurs. The agriculture graduates establishing CHCs are eligible to receive financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of drone or up to Rs.5.00 lakhs.
