

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2240
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH 2022

DRONE TECHNOLOGY

2240. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
SHRIMATI SUNITA DUGGAL:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to purchase drones for farming purposes to promote drone technology in agriculture sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has earmarked any funds for the said purpose;
- (c) if so, the details of funds sanctioned/likely to be sanctioned for the current year and next two years;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide any subsidy for the purchase of drones to the farmers and other stakeholders of the sector to make it affordable for them and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has issued any standard operating procedure for usage of drone in agriculture and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the drone user has to obtain a Unique identification Number and Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit from DGCA before initiating any operation and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (f): 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 Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) 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 up to a maximum Rs.5.00 lakhs. Funds are released for Drone technology promotion based on the proposals received from various eligible entities under the scheme and during the current year, so far an amount of Rs. 2.25 Crores have been released towards this. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has published 'Drone Rules 2021' to regulate the use and operation of Drones in India, which have to be complied for all Drone operations and as per these rules the Unique Identification Number for drone operation is necessary. However, the requirement of Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit has been waived off.
