

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2586**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2022

**DRONE TECHNOLOGY**

2586. DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN:  
DR. VISHNU PRASAD M.K.:  
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to draft a policy on using drone technology for spraying pesticides as well as other soil and crop nutrients in the farm sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans to either provide subsidies for purchasing drones or providing drones on rent by Panchayats to farmers and if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it would be helpful in generating employment;
- (c) whether the Ministry has released the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for use of drone in pesticide application for crop protection and spraying soil and crop nutrients to promote chemical-free natural farming in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is promoting drone technology which is useful in agriculture and it will benefit poor farmers in rural areas who have less income and if so, whether some funds have been arranged through NABARD;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the use of unmanned aerial vehicles has great potential to revolutionize agriculture and ensure food security in the country; and
- (f) whether use of drones in agriculture can give employment to people in rural areas and if so, the measures taken to reduce the technology gap in rural areas?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (f): To promote the use of drones in agriculture, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use of drones in pesticide and nutrient application, which provide concise instructions for effective and safe operations of drones. In order to make drone technology affordable and available to the farmers and other stakeholders of this sector, financial assistance @

100 % cost of drone (upto Rs. 10 lakhs per drone) together with the contingent expenditure is provided under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to the Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), KrishiVigyanKendras (KVKs), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), State and other Central Government Agricultural Institutions/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Government of India engaged in agricultural activities for its demonstration on the farmer's fields. Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) are provided grants @ 75% for purchase of drones for its demonstration on the farmers' fields. In order to provide agricultural services through drone application, financial assistance @ 40% of the basic cost of drone and its attachments up to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs is also provided for drone purchase by the Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) under Cooperative Society of Farmers, 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. The individual Small and Marginal Farmers, Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) farmers, Women Farmers and the Farmers of the North Eastern States are also provided assistance @ 50% of the cost of drone up to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and the other farmers @ 40% of the cost of drone up to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs. The Department so far has provided funds amounting to Rs.2.25 crores to the Government of Kerala for purchase of 14 drones and their demonstration in 4000 hectares through FPOs and Rs.52.50 crores to ICAR for purchase of 300 drones and their demonstrations in 75000 hectares through 100 KVKs, 75 ICAR Institutions and 25 SAUs across the country. Through these initiatives, it has been envisaged that the use of drones in agriculture will provide ample opportunities to provide employment to people in rural areas.

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