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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2655 TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5^{TH} AUGUST 2025

SUPPORT TO SHGs UNDER NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME

2655. SHRI PUSHPENDRA SAROJ:

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

- (a) the number of women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) trained and provided with drones under the Namo Drone Didi scheme in Uttar Pradesh since its inception, along with the utilization rates of these drones district-wise;
- (b) the average monthly income generated by these SHGs through drone rental services to farmers in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in the district of Mainpuri;
- (c) the number of small and marginal farmers who have availed these services, along with the details of cost savings and yield improvements achieved district-wise; and
- (d) the specific measures undertaken to address reported challenges such as substandard drone batteries, lack of timely maintenance support, insufficient farmer demand, gaps in post- training handholding and business facilitation for the 'Drone Didis', with the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): The Government has approved 'Namo Drone Didi' as Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crores for the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26. The major objectives of the scheme is to promote advance technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhanced crop yield & reduced cost of operation and to empower SHGs as drone service providers for increasing their income and providing livelihood support to them. Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) have distributed 1094 drones to drone didis of SHGs in 2023-24 using their internal resources. Out of these 1094 drones, 500 drones have been distributed under the Namo Drone Didi Scheme.

The district-wise allocation is made by the State Governments and as per the information provided by the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission (UPSRLM), 114 drones have been provided to the drone didis of the State of Uttar Pradesh and the district-wise details are placed at Annexure-I. These drones on an average are used for seven months across the year. Specific district-wise details of month-wise utilization of these drones is not maintained by UPSRLM. Four drones are provided to the drone didis of Mainpuri district and as informed by UPSRLM, their additional annual income from drone services is Rs. 1.00 lakhs.

(d): The drones under the Namo Drone Didi scheme are provided as a package which include basic drone with spray assembly for spraying liquid fertilizers and pesticides, Drone carrying box, standard battery set, downward facing camera, dual-channel fast battery charger, battery charger hub, anemometer, pH meter and 1 year onsite warranty on all items. The package also includes 04 spare battery sets, one spare propeller set (each set contains 6 propellers), nozzle set, dual channel fast battery charger, battery charger hub, one year comprehensive insurance, 2 years annual maintenance contract and applicable GST. 15 days training for one of the members of SHGs and 5 days training to other member/family member of SHGs is provided as a part of drone package.

The Committee at State level with members drawn from Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Engineering of the State, Rural Development, State Mission Directorate of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), State Cooperative Department, Lead Banks/ National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), representatives of Lead Fertilizer Company (LFC) nominated for the state, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) is responsible for selection of appropriate clusters for drone usage, selection of the progressive women SHGs under DAY - NRLM in the States in the identified clusters for providing drones, selection of members of the women SHGs for drone pilot and drone assistant training, assessment of district-wise drone usage, identification of existing gap, availability and future requirements of drone usage, providing/ensuring business to selected Women SHGs in coordination with the LFCs and Pesticide companies etc. To address the drone transport issue, a provision has been made under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to provide financial assistance @ 80% to the Women SHGs identified under Namo Drone Didi scheme for purchase of Multi-utility machines, which are also used as drone transport.

District-wise number of women SHGs in Uttar Pradesh who have been provided drones by the Lead Fertilizer Companies

S.	Name of District	No. of SHGs provided with the
No.		Drones by LFCs
1.	Agra	3
2.	Aligarh	2
3.	Ambedkar Nagar	2
4.	Amethi	4
5.	Ayodhya	6
6.	Badaun	1
7.	Balia	1
8.	Barabanki	4
9.	Bareili	4
10.	Basti	1
11.	Bijnore	1
12.	Bulandshahr	1
13.	Chandauli	1
14.	Deoria	2
15.	Etah	2
16.	Gonda	2
17.	Gorakhpur	7
	Hardoi	2
19.	Hathras	1
20.	Jalaun	1
21.	Jaunpur	4
22.	Jhansi	3
23.	Kushinagar	2
	Lakhimpur Kheri	3
	Maharajganj	2
	Mahoba	1
27.	Mainpuri	4
	Meerut	2
29.	Moradabad	3
30.	Pratapgarh	3
	Prayagraj	16
32.		2
	Sant Kabeer Nagar	2
34.	Shahjahanpur	3
	Sitapur	4
	Sonbhadra	1
	Sultanpur	1
	Unnao	1
	Varanasi	9
	Total	114
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