

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2540
ANSWERED ON 16/12/2025**

NAMO DRONE DIDI SCHEME

2540. Dr. M P Abdussamad Samadani:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and total number of drones distributed to women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the Namu Drone Didi scheme, State-wise;**
- (b) the measures taken by the Government to create awareness and train women SHGs to handle drones;**
- (c) the details of total expenditure incurred by the Government in training and conducting these awareness campaigns;**
- (d) whether the Government will prioritise distributing drones to women in the coastal belt of Kerala, which can enhance their livelihood opportunities; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. CHANDRA SEKHAR PEMMASANI)**

(a) to (c): Government approved Central Sector Scheme 'NAMO DRONE DIDI' for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs), during the period of 3 years (2023-24 to 2025-26) with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crores.

The major aims and objectives of the scheme is to promote advance technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhanced crop yield and reduced cost of operation and to empower Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) as drone service providers for increasing their income and providing livelihood support to them. 1094 drones have been distributed to SHGs by the Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) in 2023-24 utilizing their internal resources. Out of these 1094 drones, 500 drones have been distributed to SHGs under Namu Drone Didi

scheme. The State-wise distribution of these drones is indicated in Annexure.

The drones under Namu Drone Didi Scheme are supplied as a package, which also include training for one of the members of the SHGs for fifteen days. The training covers drone flying, understanding provisions of Drone Rules, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for nutrient and pesticide application, drone flying practice for agriculture purpose and minor repair & maintenance of drones.

Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for drone application with pesticide for crop protection and for spraying soil and crop nutrients in agricultural, forestry, non-cropped areas etc. in December 2021 that provides concise instructions for effective and safe operations of drones. It covers important aspects like statutory provisions, flying permissions, area distance restrictions, weight classification, overcrowded areas restrictions, drone registration, safety, insurance, pilot certifications, operation plan, air flight zones, weather conditions, operating instructions for pre, post and during operation, emergency handling plan etc. SOPs for application of pesticides with drones have also been released in April 2023, which has widened the potential use of Kisan Drones with pesticides in 10 different crops grown under diverse agro-climatic conditions. It includes information for drone operations based on relevant parameters like temperature, humidity, wind speed, terrain conditions and crop conditions/stages etc.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is actively promoting drone use in agriculture through widespread demonstrations on the farmers' fields with financial support of Rs. 52.50 Crores under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM). During the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26, the institutions of ICAR, Agricultural Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across the country had carried out 40928 kisan drone demonstrations on farmers' fields on nutrients, fertilizers, chemicals (insect and pest) applications following these SOPs and covering an area of 40918 hectare.

(d) & (e): Under Namu Drone Didi scheme, 02 numbers of drones have been distributed in the State of Kerala. An allocation of 82 drones under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme has been conveyed to the State of Kerala.

The Committee at State is responsible for selection of appropriate clusters in particular States 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. The State of Kerala has already constituted the committee under the Agriculture Production Commissioner involving members from Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare, Government of Kerala, Kerala Agriculture University, Local Self Government Department, State Mission Director -DAY-NRLM, Cooperative Societies Department, Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and State level Bankers Committee.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PART (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2540 ANSWERED ON 16.12.2025 REGARDING “Namo Drone Didi Scheme”****State-wise details of drones distributed under Namo Drone Didi Scheme**

S. No.	State Name	No. of Drones distributed by LFCs
1	Andhra Pradesh	96
2	Assam	9
3	Bihar	5
4	Chhattisgarh	12
5	Gujarat	18
6	Haryana	22
7	Himachal Pradesh	4
8	Jharkhand	1
9	Karnataka	82
10	Kerala	2
11	Madhya Pradesh	12
12	Maharashtra	30
13	Odisha	12
14	Punjab	23
15	Rajasthan	17
16	Tamil Nadu	17
17	Telangana	32
18	Uttar Pradesh	33
19	Uttarakhand	7
20	West Bengal	20
Total		500
