GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 263
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/07/2016

DRONE BASED AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

263. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:

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

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is developing drone based technologies in farming sector for assessing the quality of soil as well as crop losses after floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the use of drones will facilitate immediate assessment of damage to crops and immediate release of compensation to the farmers including crop insurance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which these drone based technologies are likely to be fruitful for the farming sector?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has formulated a collaborative research project entitled "SENSAGRI: SENsor based Smart AGRIculture" involving six partner Institutes (Agriculture & IT) to be funded by Information Technology Research Academy (ITRA), Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY), Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT), Govt. of India and ICAR. The major objective is to develop indigenous prototype for drone based crop and soil health monitoring system using hyperspectral remote sensing (HRS) sensors. This technology could also be integrated with satellite-based technologies for large scale applications.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Drone technology based unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has ability for smooth scouting over farm fields, gathering precise information and transmitting the data on real time basis. This capability could be used for the benefit of farming sector at regional/local scale for assessing land and crop health; extent, type and severity of damage besides issuing forewarning, post-event management and settlement of compensation under crop insurance schemes.

****