

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -2570**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25/03/2022

**DRONE SERVICES IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**

2570. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:  
SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allowed the use of drones in agricultural practices, if so, which agency will issue licences for this and how it would be useful in agriculture sector and how will the misuse be monitored and controlled;
- (b) the kind of standards and security measures that are in place keeping in mind its unique advantages; and
- (c) whether usage of drones in agricultural practice will lead to many undesirable issues such as molecular and biological indices of air, if so, how Government is planning to address these issues?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): Looking into the unique advantages of drone technologies in agriculture, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) has released the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use of drones in pesticide and nutrient application.

All the drone operations in the country are governed by the Drone Rules, 2021, notified by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA). The Digital Sky platform launched by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) facilitates registration of drones, pilots, and operators for online permission while enforcing safety and security guidelines. The Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee (CIB&RC) has notified the procedure for conducting experiments and approving pesticides to be used for drone application.

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