

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2883
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2024

USE OF DRONES TO SPRAY AGRICULTURE INPUTS

2883. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether '100 farmer drone' campaign has been launched in different parts of the country for spraying agricultural inputs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether drones made by Government for spraying inputs work under Government, or whether farmers have to buy them; and
- (d) whether farmers sprayed agricultural inputs through these drones in Punjab region, which is known as a world famous agricultural land, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): 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. Out of the total 15,000 drones targeted to be supplied under the scheme, Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) have procured the first 500 drones in 2023-24, using their internal resources and distributed to the selected SHGs, which include 23 drones supplied to SHGs of the State of Punjab. During the financial year 2024-25, it has been targeted to distribute drones to 3090 SHGs in the first phase out of which 206 drones have been allocated for the SHGs from the State of Punjab.

Under this scheme, the drones are provided to the women SHGs with Central Financial Assistance @ 80% of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of Rs. 8.0 lakhs per drone. The drones provided to the SHGs are to be used by them for providing rental services to the farmers for spraying of liquid fertilizers & pesticides. During 2024-25, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes have conducted 368 drone demonstrations on nutrients, fertilizers, chemicals (insect and pest) applications in the State of Punjab covering an area of 404.5 ha area.
