

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3283
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST MARCH 2023

FUNDS FOR KISAN DRONES

3283. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:
SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:
SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:

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

- (a) the details of the grants available and released under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) for purchase of Kisan Drones and Promotion thereof;
- (b) the details of beneficiaries and funds released, category-wise, district-wise in the State of Gujarat;
- (c) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to promote the use of drones for tech-driven farming, reducing the cost and increasing the income of farmers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of on field's response by farmers to Kisan Drone Promotion and the steps taken by the Government to create awareness among farmers in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): For promotion of Kisan Drones, the following provisions have been made under the guidelines of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM):

(i) Financial assistance @ 100% of the cost of drone up to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs per drone is provided for purchase of drones for their demonstration by institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), State Agriculture Universities (SAUs), State and other Central Government Agricultural Institutions/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Government of India engaged in agricultural activities. The Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) are provided grants up to 75% of the cost of agriculture drone for its demonstrations on the

farmers' fields. A contingency expenditure of Rs.6000 per hectare is provided to these implementing agencies that do not want to purchase drones but will hire drones for demonstrations from Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), Hi-tech Hubs, Drone Manufacturers and Start-Ups. The contingent expenditure to implementing agencies that purchases drones for drone demonstrations is limited to Rs.3000 per hectare.

(ii) In order to make available drone services to farmers on rental basis, financial assistance @ 40% up to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs are provided for purchase of drones by CHCs under Cooperative Society of Farmers, FPOs and Rural entrepreneurs. Agriculture graduates establishing CHCs are eligible to receive financial assistance @ 50% of the cost of drone up to a maximum of Rs.5.00 lakhs per drone.

(iii) For purchase of drones on individual ownership basis, the Small and Marginal, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, Women and North Eastern State farmers are provided financial assistance @ 50% of the cost up to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs and other farmers @ 40% up to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs.

Based on the proposals received so far, the funds amounting to Rs. 129.19 crores have been released towards Kisan Drone promotion which include Rs. 52.50 crores released to the ICAR for purchase of 300 Kisan Drones and organizing their demonstrations on the farmers' fields in 75000 hectares through 100 KVKs, 75 ICAR institutions and 25 SAUs. It also includes funds released to various State Governments for supply of more than 240 Kisan Drone to farmers on subsidy and establishment of more than 1500 Kisan Drone CHCs to provide drone services to the farmers.

(b): ICAR in their demonstration project included four SAUs, two ICAR Institutes and five KVKs of the Gujarat State and a total of 13 Kisan Drones have been sanctioned to them. The State of Gujarat has so far not submitted any proposal towards Kisan Drone subsidy and establishment of Kisan Drone CHCs under SMAM.

(c) and (d): The use of drone have some distinct advantages such as high field capacity and efficiency, less turnaround time and other field operational delays, wastage reduction of pesticide and fertilizers due to high degree of atomization, water saving due to ultra-low volume spraying technology in comparison to traditional spraying methods, reduction in cost of spraying and fertilizer application in comparison to conventional methods etc. besides reduction of human exposure to hazardous chemicals. Scientific studies are carried out and data supporting the drone application are generated. Pilot studies with different approaches like use of remote sensing technology including satellite data and drone based images especially for crop cutting experiments planning, direct yield estimation at Gram Panchayat level, risk mapping of district and for dispute/area discrepancy resolution etc. have been conducted through Mahalanobis National Crop Forecasting Centre (MNCFC). Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which provide concise instructions for effective and safe operations of drones for pesticide and nutrient application have been released. The awareness among farmers is being created through demonstration and capacity building programmes.
