

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1919 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 02.08.2024

USE OF DRONES FOR SOIL TESTING

1919 SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the utilization of drones for soil testing in the State of Andhra Pradesh, particularly through Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs);
- (b) the details of the initiatives taken/proposed to be taken to deploy drones for soil testing including the number of Rythu Bharosa Kendras equipped with drones and their operational effectiveness;
- (c) the training programmes conducted for farmers on operating drones for soil testing, including the number of farmers trained along with the outcome of the pilot project;
- (d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure compliance with safety regulations and DGCA-certification standards for drones used in agricultural activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to expand the use of drones beyond soil testing to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability in the said State and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (e): Government of India has launched a Central Sector Scheme "Namo Drone Didi (NDD)" with an aim to promote the usage of drone in agriculture sector for spraying of Nano fertilizers and pesticides. In this scheme, 15000 drones will be provided to the selected Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) for giving business opportunity in Agriculture Sector. The scheme will help in infusing advance technology in agriculture for improved efficiency, enhance crop yield and reduce cost of operation for the benefits of farmers. However, Drone Technology for Soil Testing has not been developed in India including State of Andhra Pradesh.

As informed by State Government of Andhra Pradesh, under NDD scheme, 108 women from various SHGs as a Drone Pilot and Assistant Drone Pilot have been trained by provided authorized RPTOs which is certified by DGCA. The Pilots were trained on the DGCA safety regulations and DGCA- certification standards.
