

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3029
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6th August 2026)

USAGE OF DRONES

3029. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the manner in which the reduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on drones to five percent last year has impacted the adoption of drone-as-a-service models in the agricultural and logistics sectors;
- (b) whether the Government is on track to notify the National Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Policy to meet the one per cent blending target mandate starting in 2027 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the progress made in the Namo Drone Didi initiative; and
- (d) the number of women Self-Help Groups trained successfully as drone pilots till February, 2026?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) The Government of India has taken a significant step towards strengthening farm mechanization by reducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) slab on agricultural machinery, including drones, from 12-18% to 5%. This measure directly benefits farmers across the country, particularly those availing support under various farm mechanization assistance programs.

The reduction in GST has lowered the purchase cost of drones, making them more affordable and accessible for farmers. When combined with financial support available under farm mechanization schemes, which provide subsidies of up to 40-50% for the purchase of agricultural machinery, including drones, farmers gain the dual advantage of lower taxation and financial assistance. Under the Namo Drone Didi Scheme, subsidies amount to 80% of the drone package cost, up to a maximum of Rs 8 lakh per drone package.

(b) The Government has approved indicative blending targets of 1% by 2027, 2% by 2028 and 5% by 2030 for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) in conventional Aviation Turbine Fuel for international operations. Public sector Oil Marketing Companies are actively engaged in achieving the stated blending targets.

(c) and (d) Namo Drone Didi Yojana (NDDY) was approved by the Government as a Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs 1,261 crore for the period from Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 to FY 2025-26. The scheme aims to provide 15,000 agricultural drones to selected

Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs). In 2023, 1,094 drones were distributed to SHGs by Lead Fertilizer Companies using their internal resources. Out of these 1,094 drones, 500 were distributed under the NDDY scheme. All SHG members have been provided training at Remote Pilot Training Organisations.
