

# The 'Namo Drone Didi' scheme will provide new opportunities and empowerment to rural women

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Government has approved 'Namo Drone Didi' as Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 1261 Crores for the period from 2023-24 to 2025-26 for providing drones to the selected Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose (application of fertilizers and pesticides). Central Financial Assistance @ 80% of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of Rs. 8.0 lakhs is provided to the women SHGs for purchase of drones. The Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) of SHGs may raise the balance amount (total cost of procurement minus subsidy) as loan under National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility (AIF) with interest subvention @ 3%.

Under the Namo Drone Didi scheme, the drones are supplied as a package, which consists of basic drone with spray assembly for spraying liquid fertilizers and pesticides. The package includes additional 4 spare battery sets, one spare propeller set, nozzle set, dual channel fast battery charger, battery charger hub, 15 days training for drone pilot, drone assistant training, one-year comprehensive insurance, 2 years annual maintenance contract and applicable GST. The 15 days drone pilot training programme include compulsory training for securing drone pilot licence, preparation for flying, minor repair and maintenance and hands on practice for handling drones for spraying of pesticides and liquid fertilizers.

As per the information provided by the Department of Fertilizers, Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs) have distributed 500 drones under the Namo Drone Didi Scheme to drone didis of SHGs in 2023-24. All these drone didis have been provided training at the Remote Pilot Organisations (RPTOs) authorised by DGCA. The State wise details are indicated in **Annexure**.

Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Bangalore have carried out a study on economics and business viability of drone operations on these 500 drones provided by LFCs under Namo Drone Didi scheme. The study indicates that the SHGs earlier were primarily engaged in agriculture and allied activities and the drones provided to them has expanded their niche to modern agricultural practices through drone technology, enhancing their efficiency and productivity. Overall, the adoption of drones has diversified SHG activities, improved agricultural practices, and increased income opportunities for women in rural communities.

## State wise details of SHGs who have been provided drones by the LFCs

| S.No | State Name     | No. of SHGs |
|------|----------------|-------------|
| 1    | Andhra Pradesh | 96          |
| 2    | Assam          | 9           |

|    |                    |            |
|----|--------------------|------------|
| 3  | Bihar              | 5          |
| 4  | Chhattisgarh       | 12         |
| 5  | Gujarat            | 18         |
| 6  | Haryana            | 22         |
| 7  | Himachal Pradesh   | 4          |
| 8  | Jharkhand          | 1          |
| 9  | Karnataka          | 82         |
| 10 | Kerala             | 2          |
| 11 | Madhya Pradesh     | 34         |
| 12 | Maharashtra        | 30         |
| 13 | Odisha             | 12         |
| 14 | Punjab             | 23         |
| 15 | Rajasthan          | 19         |
| 16 | Tamil Nadu         | 17         |
| 17 | Telangana          | 72         |
| 18 | Uttar Pradesh      | 32         |
| 19 | Uttarakhand        | 3          |
| 20 | West Bengal        | 7          |
|    | <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>500</b> |

This information was given by the Minister of State for Rural Development Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

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