

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 868
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JULY, 2023

PROMOTION OF NATURAL FARMING

868. SHRI MAHABALI SINGH:
SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is formulating or has formulated any scheme to promote chemicals free natural farming in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote drones in agriculture;
- (d) whether funds have been arranged for the farmers through NABARD; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Government is promoting natural farming since 2019-2020 through a sub-scheme namely Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). Natural farming is chemical free farming based on the integrated agriculture and animal husbandry approach using livestock and local resources and relies on on-farm biomass recycling with major stress on biomass mulching, use of on-farm cow dung-urine formulations from local livestock's. So far 4.09 lakh ha area has been brought under natural farming in 8 states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under BPKP.

(c) to (e): Government is promoting the agricultural drones under the Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme by providing the subsidy for Drone

procurements, drone demonstrations and Strengthening Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs)/Farm Machinery Banks (FMBs)/Hi-Tech Hubs.

In order to make this technology affordable to the farmers and other stakeholders of this sector, financial assistance @ 100 % cost of drone together with the contingent expenditure is extended under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) to the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) for its demonstration on the fields of farmer.

In order to provide agricultural services through drone application financial assistance @ 40% of the basic cost of drone and its attachments or Rs.4 lakhs, whichever is less is also provided for drone purchase by existing and new Custom Hiring Centers under Cooperative Society of Farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations and Rural entrepreneurs.

There is no such proposal for arranging funds for the farmers through NABARD.
