GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2722
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th March 2022

BAN ON IMPORT OF DRONES

2722. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH
SHRI RAJMANI PATEL
SMT PHULO DEVI NETAM

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the notification of February 9, 2022 banning the import of drones will have any direct effect on the use of imported drones within the country in commercial and leisure use;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special regards to permissions and regulations that have been altered;

(c) whether Government believes that the current notification will have any effect on the size of the grey markets for drones;

(d) whether Government has taken any steps to curb illegal drones from unregulated trade routes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (e) Yes sir. The ban on import of drones will have an effect on the use of imported drones within the country in commercial and leisure use.

As per Rule 14 of the Drone Rules, 2021 notified on 25th August 2021, any person owning a drone imported into India before 30th November, 2021 was allowed to obtain a Unique Identification Number (UIN) for the same through the Government's online DigitalSky Platform. Thus, a prior notice period of more than 90 days was provided to drone importers.

According to Rule 14 of the Drone Rules, 2021, no person shall operate an unmanned aircraft system without first registering it on the digital sky platform and obtaining a unique identification number, unless exempted. Importing and operating an illegal drone may invite penal action as per law.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide notification No. 54/2015-2020 dated 9th February 2022 prohibited import of drones in completely built up (CBU), semi knocked down (SKD) or completely knocked down (CKD) form, except for R&D, defence and security purposes.

DGFT has informed officers and staff of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs about the ban on import of drones and the same has been implemented across the country with effect from 9th February 2022.

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