

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 337
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd April 2023)

POLICY FOR USE OF DRONES

*337. SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to deal with the question of privacy when it comes to the use of UAVs and Drones for the purpose of research, development and testing purposes and traffic management and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) Whether the Government has awareness drives to create awareness about the mechanism of obtaining Certification, Registration, Remote Pilot Licenses and Insurance for an unmanned aircraft system and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 337 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03RD APRIL 2023.

(a)The Government is well aware about the question of privacy in relation to UAV/Drones for the purpose of research, development and testing purposes. While, requirements of type certificate, unique identification number, prior permission and remote pilot licence for operating unmanned aircraft systems have been waived off for such purposes, the same is subject to the restriction that such exemption is for the following categories only:-

(i)any research and development entity under the administrative control of, or recognised by, the Central Government or State Government or Union Territory Administration

(ii)any educational institution under the administrative control of, or recognised by, the Central Government or State Government or Union Territory Administration

(iii)any Startup recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

(iv)any authorised testing entity and

(v)any unmanned aircraft system manufacturer having a Goods and Service Tax Identification Number.

The exemption is also subject to the condition that such operations take place within a green zone and within the premises of the person where such research, development and testing is being carried out or within an open area in a green zone under such person's control. As such, the use of drones for the purpose of research, development and testing purposes will not breach privacy as its use is restricted to concerned institutions and locations within the control of that entity only.

In case of any contravention, Rule 49(4) of the Drone Rules regarding offences and compounding provides explicitly that the provisions of these rules shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law, for the time being in force. This provision adequately covers all offences including breach of privacy covered under the relevant laws including the Information Technology Act, 2000 that has provisions for punishment for violation of privacy. Further, Indian Penal Code (IPC) also has provisions to penalize privacy related offences such as 354 C (voyeurism), 354 D (Stalking) etc.

(b)To create awareness about the mechanism of obtaining Certification, Registration, Remote Pilot Licenses and Insurance for an unmanned aircraft system, all the Drone related information and processes have been made available on the Digital Sky Platform (DSP) (<https://digitalsky.dgca.gov.in/home>) in a very simplified manner for ease of understanding & compliance for public information and awareness. In this regards the following steps have been taken:

(i)Published Quick Steps to guide the users to use Form D1, D2, D3, D4 D5 of Drone Rules.

(ii)Provided the answers to Frequently Asked Questions on DSP.

(iii)Link to various related regulations and schemes via Regulations section in the Home Page on DSP.

(iv)A Helpdesk support team has been continuously providing guidance to users in navigating any challenges while using the platform.

Further, drone policy reforms and processes are publicized by panel discussions and presentations of start-ups, academicians and experts in Drone Melas and "Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022" organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation. The events gained wide publicity through leading newspapers, electronic media and social media. Ministry of Civil Aviation organized Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 which attracted over 70 drone exhibitors and 10,000 visitors. Apart from this, regular awareness for DSP has been made during the Drone Melas conducted across 12 States of the country.
