

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2882**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023)

**DRONE AMENDMENT RULES, 2022**

2882. SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA

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

- (a) the reform measures undertaken by Government to promote India's upcoming drone industry which is having the potential of becoming a global drone hub
- (b) whether Government has made any attempts to deal with the question of privacy when it comes to the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Drones for the purpose of research, development, and testing purposes and/or traffic management, if so, the details thereof and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Drone Amendment Rules, 2022 are insufficient, vaguely worded, and ambiguous in tackling such an issue on privacy concerns?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

- (a) The Central Government has undertaken a series of reform measures to make India a global drone hub, some of these are as follows:
  - (i) Liberalised Drone Rules, 2021 have been notified on 25th August 2021.
  - (ii) Drone Airspace Map has been published on 24th September 2021, opening up nearly 90% of Indian airspace as a green zone for drone flying up to 400 feet.
  - (iii) Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drones and drone components has been notified on 30th September 2021.
  - (iv) UAS Traffic Management (UTM) Policy Framework has been published on 24th October 2021.
  - (v) Monetary grant programme for purchase of agricultural drones was announced by the Union Agriculture Ministry on 22nd January 2022.
  - (vi) All application forms under Drone Rules, 2021 have been made online on the Digital Sky Platform on 26th January 2022.
  - (vii) Drone Certification Scheme has been notified on 26th January 2022.
  - (viii) Mission 'Drone Shakti' has been announced for supporting drone start-ups and promoting Drone-as-a-Service (DrAAS) as part of Union Budget on 1st February 2022.
  - (ix) Drone Import policy has been notified on 9th February 2022, banning import of

foreign drones and freeing up import of drone components.

(x) Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022 has been notified on 11th February 2022, abolishing the requirement of drone pilot license. Now a remote pilot certificate is issued by a DGCA-authorized Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) which is adequate for the remote pilot to operate drones.

(b) and (c) As per drone Rules 2021 and Drone Amendment Rules 2022, drones being operated for research, development and testing purposes are free to operate in green zone such that the area where such drones are being operated is under the control of the testing entity. For operating in yellow and red zone, the permission is required from the Air Traffic Control and Central Government after checking multiple parameters like registration of drone and pilot, drone model, flight plan, purpose of operation etc.

As regards the dealing with the privacy issues, Rule 49(4) of the Drone Rules 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.

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