

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 670
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2nd December 2024)**

INITIATIVES FOR DRONE INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY

670. SHRI SANJAY SETH

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

- (a) the initiatives taken by Government to develop the drone industry in the country;
- (b) the number of drone manufacturing companies registered in the country;
- (c) the total investment in the drone sector over the last five years; and
- (d) the regulatory framework and policies implemented to promote the safe and efficient use of drones?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

- (a) The Central Government has undertaken a series of reform measures to develop the Drone Industry in India, 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) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Traffic Management (UTM) Policy Framework has been published on 24th October 2021.
 - (v) All application forms under Drone Rules, 2021 have been made online on the Digital Sky Platform on 26th January 2022.
 - (vi) Drone Certification Scheme has been notified on 26th January 2022.
 - (vii) Drone Import policy has been notified on 9th February 2022, banning import of foreign drones and freeing up import of drone components.
 - (viii) Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022 have been notified on 11th February 2022, abolishing the requirement of drone pilot license. Now, only a remote pilot certificate issued by a DGCA-authorized Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) is required for the remote pilot to operate drones.
 - (ix) Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2023 have been notified on 27th September 2023, further easing the issuance of Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC) by removing the

mandatory requirement of a passport. Now, government issued proof of identity and government issued proof of address such as Voter's ID card, Ration card or driving license shall be adequate for issuance of RPC.

(x) Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2024 have been notified on 21st August 2024, further easing the registration and de-registration/ transfer of drone by removing the mandatory requirement of a passport. Now, a government issued proof of identity and a government issued proof of address i.e. Voter ID, Ration Card or Driving License can now be accepted for registration and de-registration or transfer of drone.

(b) Rule 9 of Drone Rules, 2021, enables issuance of type certificate to applicants for manufacturing drones. Currently, there are 54 such manufacturers who hold type certificate issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(c) Ministry of Civil Aviation does not maintain such data for overall drone sector. However, investment in respect of the beneficiaries under the PLI Scheme for drones and drone components notified on 30th September, 2021 is approximately Rs 595 crores.

(d) To promote safe and efficient use of unmanned aircraft systems, following measures have been taken by the Government:

(i) Central Government has notified the Drone Rules, 2021 on 25th August, 2021 with subsequent amendments made from time to time.

(ii) As per these rules, each drone has to be Type Certified as per the certification scheme for UAS issued on 26th January, 2022, unless exempted

(iii) An interactive airspace map has been made available on Digital Sky platform segregating low level airspace into red zone, yellow zone and green zone for drone operations.

(iv) As per these rules, no permission is required in green zone. Permission of concerned Air Traffic Control (ATC) Authority is required for operating drones in yellow zone. Permission of Ministry of Civil Aviation and the concerned red zone owners are required for drone operations in red zone.

(v) Each drone irrespective of weight and use-case, has to be registered on the Digital Sky platform.

(vi) The remote pilot (the person operating the drone) must have undergone training from any DGCA authorised Remote Pilot Training Organisation, must have passed the test, and have obtained the Remote Pilot Certificate issued through digital sky platform.

(vii) All the responsibilities for safe operation of the Drones lies with the drone pilot

(viii) Insurance is mandatory for all drones except nano drones and drone used for Research & Development purpose.
