

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1820
ANSWERED ON – 16.12.2025

GST RATE RATIONALISATION ON DRONES

1820 Shri Mokariya Rambhai:
Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki:
Shri Subhash Barala:
Shri Deepak Prakash:
Dr. Dinesh Sharma:
Shri Kesridevsinh Jhala:
Dr. Kavita Patidar:
Shri Naresh Bansal:
Shri Sadanand Mhalu Shet Tanavade:
Shri Rajib Bhattacharjee:
Shri Lahar Singh Siroya:
Shri Narhari Amin:
Shri Sujeet Kumar:
Shri Chunnilal Garasiya:
Shri Aditya Prasad:
Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) the GST rate rationalisation for drones and flight/motion simulators announced in September 2025, the manner in which these changes promote Ease of Doing Business in aviation and emerging technologies;
- (b) the number of pilot training organisations and aviation-skilling centres that have benefited from these measures since the announcement;
- (c) Government's assessment of the manner in which GST exemptions will boost employment, manufacturing (Make in India) and regional aviation training hubs; and
- (d) the steps being taken to monitor and ensure effectiveness of these reforms in467 expanding drone ecosystem and training infrastructure nationwide?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a), (b), (c) and (d) Based on the recommendations of the GST Council in its 56th meeting held on 03.09.2025 , unmanned aircrafts under CTH 8806 (drones) now attract a uniform 5% GST. Further, exemption from payment of Basic Customs Duty (BCD) and IGST has been notified vide notification No. 37/2025-Cus., dated

17.09.2025 for Flight Motion Simulators and its parts when imported by the Ministry of Defence, or the defence forces, or the defence public sector units, or other public sector units, or any other entity, for the Defence Forces, subject to the following conditions, namely: -

(i) an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Defence certifies,

(a) the quantity, description and technical specifications of the imported goods;
and

(b) that the said goods are intended for the purpose of and use by the defence forces only and recommends the grant of exemption to the imported goods;

(ii) the importer shall, at the time of import, furnish the said certificate to the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or the Assistant Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be.

These measures promote ease of doing business by simplifying compliance through the removal of classification disputes (5% uniform rate for drones instead of multiple GST rates 5%/18%/28% which were imposed earlier on drones), and lowering the final cost of drones to boost affordability and adoption.

The impact assessment of such reforms may not be measurable in immediate run. However in longer run, these reforms are expected to provide an overall boost to the manufacturing, employment and training in the drone ecosystem.
