

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1630
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026
SECURITY CONCERNS AND NO-FLY ZONE VIOLATIONS AT
SHREE JAGANNATH TEMPLE, PURI

1630. SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed enforcement of restrictions on unmanned aircraft operations around the Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any violations have been reported during the last three years and, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government has coordinated with the State Government to strengthen compliance with the drone rules and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether further measures are proposed to strengthen enforcement around protected heritage sites and, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d) The Government has instituted a framework of airspace restrictions, related violations and enforcement under the Drone Rules, 2021. In accordance with Rule 19 of the Drone Rules 2021, the entire Indian airspace are segregated into red zone, yellow zone and green zone. Rule 22 provides for airspace restrictions for operations of drones in red and yellow zone. Further, as per Rule 25 of Drone Rules, 2021, the nodal officers of State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and law enforcement agencies have been provided direct access to the digital sky platform for airspace coordination. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation have actively coordinated with the States and Union Territories sensitizing them on the extant regulatory framework, promoting adherence to the use of type-certified drones and certified remote pilots, disseminating best practices, and effective airspace coordination through designated nodal officers. Violation of airspace restrictions is a cognizable and non-compoundable offense under Rule 49 of the Drone Rules, 2021. Information relating to cases of alleged violations of the aforementioned Rule is maintained and acted upon by the concerned law enforcement agencies in accordance with the applicable legal framework.
