

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 16
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20th July 2026
DRONE TECHNOLOGIES IN SECURITY

16. SHRI COSTANDINE RAVINDRAN

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

- (a) Government's assessment of the increasing commercial adoption of drone technologies in security, infrastructure inspection, logistics, precision agriculture and service-based delivery models, supported by growing investor interest and regulatory support;
- (b) the policy interventions, certification reforms and facilitation measures undertaken by Government to improve market access, competitiveness and export potential of domestic drone enterprises;
- (c) the initiatives proposed by Government to strengthen training, testing and certification capacities for the drone sector; and
- (d) the measures proposed by Government to promote innovation, skilled employment generation and wider integration of drone solutions across the country?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (d): The Government has taken several measures to promote the safe, efficient and widespread commercial adoption of drone technologies in various sectors including security, infrastructure inspection, logistics, precision agriculture and service based delivery applications across the country. Initiatives undertaken are as follows:

- (i) The Central Government notified the Drone Rules, 2021 on 25 August 2021 to liberalize the use of drone technology. The Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2022 replaced the 'Remote Pilot License' with 'Remote Pilot Certificates' (RPCs). The Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2023 and Drone (Amendment) Rules, 2024 dispensed off the mandatory requirement of having an Indian Passport for issue of RPC and transfer/deregistration of drones. As on 15th July 2026, DGCA has authorised 274 RPTOs which have collectively trained 48,748 remote pilots across the country.

(ii) The Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft System (CSUAS) has been notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation enabling drone manufacturers to obtain a Type Certificate. As on 15th July 2026, 169 Type Certificates have been issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for drones catering to various use cases.

(iii) An interactive DigitalSky airspace map has been made available, segregating low-level airspace into Red, Yellow and Green Zones to facilitate drone operations. No permission is required for operations in Green Zones.

(iv) The Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) Policy Framework, has been published on 24 October 2021, for regulating low-level airspace management.

(v) To promote domestic manufacturing and improve the competitiveness of Indian drone enterprises, the Ministry of Civil Aviation had notified Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for drones and drone components on 30 September 2021 for a period of three years (2021-22 to 2023-24) with an outlay of 120 crores.
